



PALESTINE POLICE OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

EDITOR

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NEWSLETTER



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SPECIAL NOTE

To all Branch Secretaries and other contributors:

**Material for the December 1990 issue of the Newsletter should be
in the hands of the Editor by 7th October, 1990.**

NOTICE

It is always nice to have a "Supporters' Club" and to this end we are grateful to the number of people who wish to be regarded as Donor Members of our great family. Among them we have four or five who are collectors of Police Memorabilia, including former Colonial Police Forces and we are aware of those who particularly wish to acquire buttons, badges, shoulder titles and indeed any other form of insignia from our old Force. Most of us do not wish to relinquish treasured items, particularly cap badges, but should anyone wish to do so would they please contact the Editor who is in touch with those interested? From time to time we shall publish the addresses of known collectors, but for the moment we do not wish to start an unseemly scramble. Let's see how it goes. Perhaps in the next issue we shall publish such names and addresses as we have, if we have room.

Editor

NOTICE

We are still being asked for the address to apply for medals and medals enquiries. We are pleased therefore to print it once again.

**Ministry of Defence
The Army Medal Service
Government Office Buildings
Droitwich
Worcestershire WR9 8AU**

We still receive information from time to time from this department that they still hold about 200 unclaimed General Service Medals awarded to former members of The Palestine Police, as well as a number of Defence Medals, War Medals and others to which certain members of the Force are entitled.

Claimants should remember to quote Full Name, Rank, Force Number and date of joining the Force. The medals are sent by post to valid enquirers.

Editor

NOTICE

To all Branch Secretaries as well as those of lesser rank. Because the editor of this journal has been able to rearrange his lifestyle to a considerable extent since he returned from his managerial post with the Citizens' Advice Bureau, which was virtually full time, it has been possible to return to some sort of normality with the workload. It might therefore be better to go back to the old idea of sending all Branch Reports – Greetings – Congratulations – and indeed anything else direct to him, as in former times, before the emergency situation of a couple of years back. Also it is hoped that future Newsletters will not suffer the long delay in publication which was entirely due to the fact that there are only 168 hours in the week.

Editor

Picture on front cover:

The flag of Palestine.

Picture from the collection of the late Tich Freeman, but probably taken by F. W. (Dicky) Bird whose official stamp appears on the reverse.

YOU ARE BEING FILMED

At last, one hears the cry. We shall be filmed at The Cenotaph this year. The reason this has come about is exceptional. B.B.C. researchers and programme makers have come to realise that The Palestine Police and the two Gendarmeries were quite exceptional. A decision has been made for a 50 minute documentary programme on the history of the Force. How it came to be formed. What we did. What sort of person joined it. The remarkable comradeship that existed in Palestine and since, etc. There are to be no interviews with outside organisations. Just the story of the Force unfolded on location in Palestine with a presenter and visits to cemeteries, the two depots, a Tegart building and the scenes of some of our many exploits. A film of the Cenotaph Parade in London will be part of the introduction to the programme. Of particular interest is our nebulous connection with the former Royal Irish Constabulary, itself one of the most remarkable police forces in history, through the gendarmerie and the many senior officers in Palestine who came from the Irish force. It is not a news feature, so do not rush home to see yourselves on TV news. It is a documentary and will probably be broadcast sometime in the spring. So do not be self conscious. Just turn up and do us proud.

The Editor

THE HOLY LAND TOUR 1991

Several telephone calls have requested information on a tour next year. We are considering an 11-day tour of Israel during May 1991, with Jerusalem and the north of Israel as the two areas of our stay. This, of course, is dependent on the state of the political situation at the beginning of next year. Further information will be available in the December issue of the Newsletter. Please notify Terry Shand of your interest by the end of November. Telephone 081-203 1057.

Terry Shand

HELP

Former B/Sgt. 2905, Alex Ternent, requires the following Newsletters in order to complete his set and replace those lost in Spain. Will refund postage and make suitable donation to the Benevolent Association.

Viz: Nos. 8, 9, 10, 14, 16, 22, 71, 78, 80, 83 and 84.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE – 1990

Statement of income and expenditure, together with allocations to branches from the proceeds from sale of tickets.

Branch	Percentage of Total Sales	Amount
South East Counties	21.27	692.50
South Midlands	13.69	445.60
S. W. Hills Esq. (Benevolent Association)	12.52	407.60
Southern & Western Counties	10.24	333.20
London	9.34	304.00
Merseyside	7.56	246.00
Scottish	7.16	233.00
Midlands	5.59	182.00
Yorkshire	5.47	178.00
East Midlands	4.79	156.00
East Anglian	2.37	77.00
	<u>100.00</u>	<u>£3254.90</u>

Expenses

Printing of tickets	110.40	
Lottery Registration 1989	12.50	
Lottery Registration 1990	12.50	
Postage	<u>30.13</u>	165.53

Prizes

First	200.00	
Second	100.00	
Third	50.00	
Fourth	25.00	
Unplaced horses (14 @ £10)	140.00	
Scratched horses (12 @ £5)	60.00	
Near misses (20 @ £2)	<u>40.00</u>	615.00
		<u>780.53</u>
	Net Profit	£2474.47

Allocation of Profit

Benevolent Association (one quarter)	618.60
South East Counties Branch	394.72
South Midlands Branch	254.03
S. W. Hills Esq. (Benevolent Association)	232.34
Southern & Western Counties Branch	190.03
London Branch	173.33
Merseyside Branch	140.30
Scottish Branch	132.87
Midlands Branch	103.74
Yorkshire Branch	101.51
East Midlands Branch	88.90
East Anglian Branch	<u>44.00</u>
	£2474.37

BALANCE

Total amount collected	£3254.90	Total allocation	£2474.37
		Total expenses	<u>780.53</u>
	<u>£3254.90</u>		<u>£3254.90</u>

THE DERBY SWEEPSTAKE – AN APPRECIATION

The return of The Derby Sweepstake this year is welcome. In many ways it is the return of a tradition started in this association many years ago. So now, the Association in general and the Central Council and Trustees of the Benevolent Association, wish to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. R. Pemble for taking over the onerous task of organising and managing the venture – 1990 being his first year “In Post” for this task. We also wish to thank Mr. S. W. Hills for his outstanding effort in selling 12.52% of the total ticket sales and donating the allocated amount of £407.60 to The Benevolent Association of which he is the Chairman. This means that the Benevolent Association has benefited by a total amount of £1,025.70 altogether, from this particular draw. Finally we wish to thank all those busy people who sold tickets up and down the country and to all those who purchased them. An outstanding effort for which congratulations all round seem almost insufficient. Yet that is what it all deserves. Congratulations all round.

The Editor

(At the earnest suggestion of Mrs. Editor)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of The Palestine Police Old Comrades' Association will take place at The Cardinal, Francis Street, London SW1 on Saturday 6th October, 1990, commencing at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Formal opening by the Chairman.
2. Minutes of the previous A.G.M., held on 7th October, 1989, as circulated in Newsletter 157 (December 1989) and matters arising therefrom.
3. Report of the General Secretary.
4. Report of the Secretary of the Benevolent Association.
5. Presentation and adoption of the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ending 31st January, 1990, for The General Fund Auditor's Report.

6. Presentation and adoption of the Statement of Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st January, 1990, for the Benevolent Association and Auditor's Report.
7. Membership of the O.C.A., and distribution of the Newsletter:

It is proposed by the Central Council – "That the Executive Officers (General Secretary and Treasurer) jointly and/or separately have the authority as from 1st February, 1991 to:

- (a) Exempt any member from paying any or all subscriptions due for the current year and to continue to distribute the Newsletter to that member when due cause has been established of his present inability to pay such subscription as is required by the Central Council, and
- (b) Delete from the Newsletter mailing list any member failing to make his annual donation in full, except for a member falling within category (a) above; such deletion may be made any time after 1st September of the then current year; it being understood that the General Secretary does not have to serve any reminder prior to such deletion."

N.B. The General Secretary will make a statement prior to the proposition being put to the vote amplifying Central Council's reasons for placing this item on the agenda.

8. Election of officers for the year 1990/1991, viz.: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and nine other members of Central Council. Nominations may be made in advance by letter to the General Secretary or on the floor of the meeting immediately before the election. (N.B. The officers and committee of the Benevolent Association are appointed by the Central Council.)
9. Election of Auditor for the O.C.A., and the O.C. Benevolent Association.
10. Reports from branches (not necessarily to be printed in the Newsletter because of space).

NOTE

The following members of the retiring Central Council have expressed their willingness to stand for re-election if normally nominated and seconded: W. Anderson, D. Cartwright M.B.E., C.P.M., T. Freeburn, S. W. Hills K.P.M., B.E.M., P. E. Hornby, T. Isted, J. L. Niven, R. Pemble, L. Seaton and T. J. Shand. Messrs. E. P. Horne B.E.M. and S. P. Johnson are ex-officio members of the Council. The first meeting of the newly elected Council will be Tuesday, 16th October, 1990 at 7.00 p.m. at The Cardinal.

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

The Annual Reunion Dinner will be held at the Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre which is next to and just to the right of the Westminster Roman Catholic Cathedral on Saturday, 6th October, 1990.

DRESS WILL BE INFORMAL (Except for THE TIE)

ASSEMBLE 6.30 p.m.

DINNER 7.00 p.m.

NOTE – Car parking in the immediate vicinity is reasonable in the roads at the rear of the Cathedral. The nearest underground station is Victoria. The Conference Centre is approached by a ramp leading downwards which is suitable for the disabled. Please book (and pay) for your ticket(s) well in advance from the General Secretary.

The Annual Dinner is still a "stag affair" but ladies will be admitted to the dining room after the singing of The Holy City which marks the conclusion of the formal proceedings – usually at about 9.00 p.m., thereafter the gathering becomes an informal get-together. Tickets should be obtained from the General Secretary and must be obtained in advance. The minimum charge for a ticket is £12.50 (a reduction of £1.00 from last year) but those who can afford more, please add a little to your cheque to help "balance the budget", thank you. Those wishing to attend should obtain their tickets as soon as possible, thereby enabling the organisers to make a better job of what can be a difficult and aggravating task. This is better than writing about three days beforehand, particularly as final catering arrangements have to be made by 30th September, so that anyone attending who has not paid in advance will very likely have to take pot luck. Any member applying for more than one ticket must name the number(s) and for whom extra ticket(s) is/are required.

Ladies arriving before the end of the dinner or during the speeches are earnestly requested to keep all noise to a minimum, so as to assist the speakers. One of the small rooms of the main hall should be kept available as a waiting area. It is regretted that at this venue, no arrangements can be made for refreshments and the bar will remain closed during speeches. We have now had a number of successful functions at the Conference Centre and look forward to an equally enjoyable time this year.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL PARADE AND SERVICE

THE CENOTAPH, WHITEHALL

Sunday, 7th October, 1990

- 10.00 a.m. Onwards. Assemble in Horse Guards Avenue, Whitehall SW1.
- 10.30 a.m. Fall in.
- 10.40 a.m. Inspection by Sir Richard Catling C.M.G., O.B.E., K.P.M., Major J.A.S. Adolph M.C. and E. P. Horne Esq. B.E.M.

- 10.55 a.m. Parade headed by the Band of The Middlesex Yeomanry Association will march to The Cenotaph, Whitehall. Parade Commander: S. P. Johnson Esq. Section Officers: Messrs. L. Adamson, F. A. Pays and T. Freeburn. Wreath Bearers: Messrs. P. R. Gill and J. C. Thompson of East Anglian Branch.
- 11.00 a.m. The Association Wreath will be laid at the foot of The Cenotaph. Followed by one minute silence. Then the Last Post will be sounded by buglers followed by The Reveille.
- 11.02 a.m. The Memorial Service for deceased Old Comrades.
- 11.15 a.m. The Parade will march into King Charles Street for "The Dismiss".

ORDER OF PARADE FOR NON-MARCHERS

(Viz.: Disabled, Associate and Donor members, etc.)

(Parade Marshall: T. Isted Esq.)

- 10.30 a.m. Assemble in Whitehall SW1, adjacent to the Cenotaph.
- 10.55 a.m. Fall in on the south side of The Cenotaph and Stand Easy. (The Marshall will call "To Attention" when the main parade arrives at The Cenotaph.)
- 11.15 a.m. Dismiss after the main parade has cleared The Cenotaph.

Decorations and Medals (or miniatures) will be worn.

After the parade and service there will be an informal gathering at The Cardinal, Francis Street, Victoria SW1 from 11.30 a.m. The Cardinal is only about 10 minutes' walking distance, behind the Army and Navy Stores in Victoria Street.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

WESTMINSTER ABBEY SW1

Thursday, 8th November 1990

Again this association is proud to be represented at the National Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey at our own plot, No. 87. Not plot 301, please note, as in previous years. The exact plot can be easily identified by the association badge mounted upon a cross. All members of the association and their ladies and families who feel able to attend are invited to assemble at 11.15 a.m., at or near to the plot itself for a short service at 12.00 noon which will mark the opening of the Field of Remembrance by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, as she has done so often in past years. Those who desire will have the opportunity to purchase small Remembrance Crosses at the door of the Abbey and then to plant them in the P.P.O.C.A. plot individually.

1st NOTICE

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

SATURDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 1990

**THE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL
CONFERENCE CENTRE**

Victoria Street, SW1
(Entrance down slope to right of Cathedral)

6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.

Minimum charge £12.50

(Tickets for the dinner only from General Secretary
BEFORE 29th September)

and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at
"The Cardinal", Francis Street, SW1

3.15 p.m. in the afternoon
(nearest underground: Victoria)

ANNUAL CENOTAPH PARADE

(TO BE FILMED BY THE B.B.C.)

SUNDAY, 7th OCTOBER, 1990

SPECIAL EFFORT PLEASE!

Horse Guards Avenue, 10.00 a.m.
(nearest underground: Westminster, Embankment or
Trafalgar Square)

Fall in 10.30 a.m. March: 10.55 a.m.
Service: 11.00 a.m.

Followed by a gathering at the Cardinal (Headquarters)

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS UNIQUE AND MOVING OCCASION

NON-MARCHERS Assemble King Charles St. at 10.30 a.m.

Those members of the association who cannot visit the Field of Remembrance in person but would like to participate in Remembrance Week can call upon some members of Central Council and members of London Branch who will see that crosses are planted on their behalf, or other inscription to be written on the cross may be sent to S. W. (Micky) Hills Esq. K.P.M., B.E.M., Flat 57, Kemp House, 103 Berwick Street, London W1V 3PN, in good time for him to execute the order. At least one month's notice would be a help.

Medals should be worn by those who attend.

Crosses are available at the prices shown hereunder, whether planted in person or by proxy. Please send cash with the order.

Badge Cross – being the P.P.O.C.A. crest on a field of poppies	£4.00
Field Cross – tastefully decorated with poppies and other flowers	£4.00
Poppy Cross, with poppies only. Slightly smaller	£2.50
Leaf Cross – bearing poppy with laurel	£2.00
Remembrance Cross. Small and plain	30p

HOME NOTES

It is good to have the Derby Sweepstake back with us, and after the sensible decision by Sidney Johnson some two years ago, that time spent on its organisation was actually counter productive to all the other calls upon his services on behalf of The Association, we are grateful to Ron Pemble for taking over and getting it all launched again. Now for the 1990 details. We are pleased to announce that the First Prize goes to Mrs. M. Seymour of Chester. £200 is better than a smack in the face with a wet kipper as they say and we feel sure this lady is delighted. Second Prize of £100 went to a Mr. B. Jacobs of London. Third Prize (£50) and Fourth Prize (£25) went to Mr. J. Edwards of Oldbury and Mr. T. Brown of Ashford, respectively. Well done. There are 12 awards of £10 each for those who drew unplaced horses as well as 12 awards of £5 each for those who drew non-runners. Finally 20 awards of £2 each to what is described on the official blurb as “Near Misses”. We have not given the name of the actual winning horse, because so many people will know it. On second thoughts however, there are as many people turned “off” by The Derby as those turned “on”, that we have decided after all to give the name. “Quest for Fame” was the wonder horse that came in first and Mrs. Seymour’s winning ticket was 10646. The accounts and distribution of monies are published in this issue.

Jim Deacon, former B/Const. 1746 of 42 Fulmerston Road, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3LN suffered what can best be described as “An experience” recently. The story in greatly abridged form is as follows: Jim is a former member of The Royal Marines and doubtless a proud member at that. He is also a former

Korean War veteran and as is so often the case, war veterans of one sort or another, particularly Royal Marine veterans, have reunion meetings and “get togethers” so that Jim set off for Lympstone, Devon to enjoy the 40th celebratory reunion of the 41st Independent Commando, Royal Marines of 1950/52 Korea campaign. He wore the Palestine Police Old Comrades’ Association tie. We are of course delighted that Jim should rate this tie above all others and commend him on his judgement and good taste. This was not thought to be the case when he arrived in the mess at Lympstone. He was “commanded” to take off the tie and was assured it would be placed in custody for safe keeping. Jim sought to pacify the crowd which was some 60 strong and were not in a mood to reason. In any case it was drinks all round and poor Jim lost his tie to an American representative at the function and was informed that it would adorn the 1st American Division trophy room at a U.S. Marine training base with suitable inscription. Jim wrote to Les Sexton the Soukh Master with a plaintive plea to supply a new tie to replace one described as “Loss of P.P.O.C.A. tie (silk) to vandals”. The Royal Marines are not the only people to have a tie syndrome in their messes. Several army units suffer from the same complaint, including some London T.A. units, so beware before accepting invitations. But we love them all.

The Overseas Pensioner No. 59 has arrived on our desk. This excellent and useful journal aimed at assisting pensioners of former Colonial Administrative Services is produced by The Overseas Service Pensioners’ Association from its office at 63 Church Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 2BD. We could rely upon it in the past for news of those of our members who are also members of this body, as to changes of address and deaths. Such is no longer the case. Very few former “Palestinians” get mentioned these days and like the old “China Hands” can be counted on one hand. It is not surprising that any of those mentioned in The New Members list have any Palestine service behind them. But three names from the Obituary List strike a cord. These are shown as Messrs. B. Elkington and A. R. Horton as well as Mrs. G. I. Sturge. (See Obituary notices – *Ed.*) Just the same it is a useful and interesting journal and apart from senior Police Officers in Palestine who by definition were members of the Palestine Administration, and those members of the Force who subsequently took up administrative posts in the colonial service, it is a journal that is informative and helpful to pensioners.

The question as to who has the honour of being the youngest member of the O.C.A. has come up. This probably means the same person could have been the youngest member of the Force. Somebody was. Could it be you, dear reader? Any claimants should get in touch with the editor giving Force Number, date of joining the Force and of course his birthday. We will work it out for ourselves. All this came about when not very long ago C. F. (Charlie) Harris of 95 Bordars Road, Hanwell, London W7 1AL made such a claim about himself. Unfortunately Charlie was mentioned in Sick Parade in the March issue (No. 158). Whereupon D. A. (David) Turner of 25 Mount Drive, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2BG wrote to Charlie to wish him better only to learn subsequently that he had died. (See Obituary Notices – *Ed.*) This news is indeed regrettable and is only relieved by David’s afterthought when he wrote to say he thought that he was probably the youngest person in this association and he quoted his date of birth, which puts him just inside his 62nd year. There are no prizes for the winner but it would be interesting to know. Perhaps in about 15 years time, he might be Chairman of the Association and we may still have 50 members. A signal honour we assure you.

Harry Russell, writing from 83 Lennoxmere, 28 Windermere Road, Durban, Natal 4001, R.S.A., keeps us informed of P.P. activities in that area. He is a sort of unofficial "Our Man in Durban" which is meant to be an accolade. Anyway on this occasion he informed our G.S., that Bill Castle and Peter Lee are both below par. (See Sick Parade – *Ed.*) We would never know such things unless the Harry Russells of this world told us. So for that we must thank him.

"The world is full of surprises" is a comment we often hear. Or, "What a small world?" is another even more common. The P.P. has its share of the diminishing globe and such an experience came to Eric Howard (ex B/Sgt. 1784) of 33 The Greenacres, Hutton, Nr. Preston, Lancashire PR4 5SR. An H.O.P. man to boot, which says a great deal in itself. Eric and his wife spent a holiday recently in Estoril and literally came across another former P.P. while waiting for the lift. The "other chap" was wearing The Tie and The Badge and turned out to be former 2685 Martin Moore, lately of Jenin, Beit Dajan, Ajami and Abu Kebir and who by way of being in the same line of business was a former L.O.P. man. Martin and his wife Arabella live at 31 Park Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin 4, Irish Republic and since 1948 had never come across another Palestine Policeman and at that point was not a member of the Association. (Joining papers have since been sent – *Ed.*) So there's a thing and one is left to wonder how many more of our distinguished flock are ungathered. By all accounts the four of them had a very enjoyable holiday. Thanks are of course due to Eric for bringing all this to our attention.

The picture on page 23 of the June issue, captioned "Anyone know where this is?" has drawn interest from Sir Gawain Bell, an old friend of this Association and an Honorary Deputy Superintendent in that as A.D.C., Beersheba following the collapse of The Arab Rebellion, he lived and worked among members of The Force, particularly the camelry section. He has written a helpful letter in which he is 95% sure that the picture depicts the very building in which he was billeted while stationed in Beersheba. The balustrade, the Arabic name chiselled in stone above the doorway (hidden in the picture by the balustrade) and location of the tree in the background all confirm his suspicions to the point of near certainty. This is one of the buildings destroyed by raiding Hebronites on 10th September 1938 when B/Sgt. Landers was killed in action while alone and defending the police station against a marauding gang of about 150 raiders. Sir Gawain is the best person to recognise all this and we are content to settle upon the matter. As to when the picture was actually taken, and what was going on there at the time, then we are still unilluminated. Jim Wallace is in there somewhere from which one must suspect "The War Years". But wait, there's more, as a well known comedian would say. Sir Gawain goes on with a second letter to say that the great man Hank (this is in reference to James Michael Hankin-Turvin), a former A.S.P. in Beersheba, who wrote in reply to an enquiry "When I opened your letter there slipped from it a photo which I immediately recognised as your house in Beersheba". So that's it. We hope meanwhile that Sir Gawain is nicely settled into his new abode at 6 Hildesley Court, East Ilsley, Berkshire RG16 0LA after leaving Gloucestershire (See Changes of Address – *Ed.*) While those who watch for news of Michael Hankin-Turvin will track him down at O'Donnell 8, 28009, Madrid, Spain.

In terms of "Heard From" people this quarter, we must not fail to mention: Jim Bamford, 22 Paris Road, Preston, Paignton, Devon TQ3 2PJ, whose letter is

sufficiently old to commence with the words "Merry Christmas". He and Betty appear to have settled into their new home but regret the loss of Ebony and Jet, their two black Great Danes. We think we agree such a double loss is hard to bear. Also Gray, the cat who died peacefully at the age of 22. Before reducing us all to tears we pass on to Bill Barber of 31 Zeals Rise, Zeals, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6PL who sent us a wonderful "blown up" photograph of a mixed British and Palestinian mounted patrol, somewhere in Galilee. It is a picture that will be framed in non reflecting glass and treasured. It is also a picture for which we offer loud thanks and appreciation. Gerry Vaughan of 32 Westmoreland Court, Stopples Lane, Hordle, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 0YA is someone whom we bumped into in the local branch of Safeways and we held up an alleyway while we chatted. It was a good chat at that. H. G. Davies of Hollyfield, Seafeld Lane, Hobbs Hill, Nr. Alvechurch, Worcestershire B48 7HL is the last to be mentioned for the moment. He always writes a meaty sort of letter. This former B/M/Const. 1720 seems to be in good fettle and one cannot ask for much more than that.

George Upfold of 4 Western Road, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 0UP – local celebrity and former Lydda District Rugby chap, number 316 by the way, is after all has been said and done a useful sort of person. We now unfold a tale worth the telling. Selsey is quite near to a place called Itchenor, which in turn is near the mouth of Chichester Harbour. A place well known to this editor as his Royal Artillery Regiment was stationed at that very place for a few months in 1940. A place moreover where The Ship Inn was the epicentre of all life and where one foregathered for "a wet" whenever possible. That is the first part of the story and we now progress to part two. George Upfold recently noticed an announcement in the local press of the Golden Wedding of a Mr. and Mrs. Bird of Selsey and that Mrs. Bird was formerly a member of the local Stephens family connected with The Ship Inn at Itchenor. George knew B/Const. 485 E. G. R. (Tiny) Stephens who was killed in action on 26th May 1938 on Ramat HaKovesh lands. He was in fact shot in the back while entering to search a pump house by Arab insurgents hidden in orange groves. He also knew that Tiny Stephens came from Itchenor, Sussex. In consequence of all this, George called upon Mrs. Bird to discover she is Tiny Stephens' sister and until then had but a sketchy notion of just how her brother had met his death so many years ago. It is a matter of interest that a memorial plaque was displayed at Hertzlia Police Station in memory of Tiny and his great sacrifice and this was thoughtfully retrieved and brought back to the U.K. by Leslie M. Fleming whose last known address is 6 The Square, Portlethen, Aberdeen. The Association has a photograph of it. So first we thank George and award him an appropriate entry in his Service Register for initiative in assisting a member of the public. Secondly some sort of similar award to Leslie Fleming for retrieving what is after all a valuable artefact from being lost for ever. We also hope Mrs. Bird will remain in touch with us from time to time as a sort of sister to us all.

Mr. and Mrs. Editor had a nice surprise when Aubrey and Josephine Nye dropped in one morning for coffee. Mrs. Editor's delight was in retrospect because she was not physically present as she had to go into Bournemouth that day, but was pleased to know that "hubby" was delighted and she gave him instructions on how to make a decent cup of coffee and not poison the guests. We had a nice chat and hope it might all occur again one day. The Nye's live at Broom Knoll, Judith Avenue, Knodishall, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1UY. Aubrey watchers will be pleased to know that although "wobbly" in the legs department he is pretty spruce for a 1935 type and long may this continue.

The Lovell Society for the Blind in Bible Lands still turn out an interesting Newsletter which arrives on our desk every so often. The latest news from Lebanon spells great difficulty in carrying on the society's work there. But in Palestine the real problem is funding. This society has existed for nearly 100 years. Its first President being the great philanthropist The Earl of Shaftesbury. It is however little known and its income has fallen to about £2,000. There are efforts to lift this amount but it is pointed out that used stamps are a useful source of income. This Editor sends several hundred each year and anyone wishing to make a similar effort should send stamps to: Miss Kathleen Young (Lovell Society Stamp Fellowship), 42 Chestnut Close, Southgate, London N14 4SD. This lady is Honorary Treasurer of the Society and interested Branch Secretaries might feel that a few pounds each year would be a useful way of keeping a worthwhile organisation for blind children in Palestine afloat. Just a hint of course, but quite a good one we feel.

Friends of Ella and the late Basil Holloway will be pleased to know that Ella wrote to the General Secretary recently (24th May to be precise). Her present address is The Lodge, 22 Spicer Road, Exeter, South Devon EX1 1SY. (Where have we heard the word Spicer before?) In her letter she recalls going with her mother and two brothers to the first Armistice Service in the Haifa (Jaffa Road) cemetery in either 1920 or 1921. The Rev. Khadder took the service and others in attendance were: Mrs. Khadder and her daughter Evelyn, Mrs. Kensitt, wife of Rhys Kensitt and her two daughters, Mrs. Matheson (Ella's mother) (husband later B/Inspector Matheson) and two sons and a daughter. The last such service she attended had detachments of Police and Army on parade. Altogether a delightful vignette of the very early days in Palestine. The death of Ella's husband, former A.S.P., B. S. (Crash) Holloway in 1988 is still deeply mourned.

We probably owe letters to such as 'Abdullah Saleem abu Shaikhah of P.O. Box 15878, Doha, Qatar and hope he will not mind waiting a little longer for a reply. Colin Imrie of 35 Greenways, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 2DT is certainly someone to whom we should write. Which by way of an aside leads me to state that this editor passed through Haywards Heath, mid June on his way to enjoy a ride on The Bluebell Railway. Just thought I would drop that in to sparkle up the narrative a bit. We must thank S. A. G. Williams of 1 Cedar Way, Brixham, Devon for his postcard. It depicted Cornish scenes, posted in Devon and was about a situation in France. But we were not too confused. A letter that did merit two or three readings came from Stella Hill of 35 McKee Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, Irish Republic. It was addressed to our General Secretary but revealed that Stella was in touch with Lilian Whiting who lives near Weston Super Mare, which is nice. More important Stella gives us a correction in a statement we made on page 14 of the December issue 1989 (No. 157) wherein we stated, because we were so informed, that she had worked at The Post Office, Millbank. This is an error and should have read that she worked in The Palestine Police Office, 27 Victoria Street, London SW1, which as far as we are concerned is a much more important status. We thank her for the correction and apologise for any misunderstanding and feel she would like to know that the original building is still at this part of Victoria Street. No. 27 appears to be a restaurant and is opposite the northern end of the New Scotland Yard building. One sometimes feels when passing that some ghosts of former P.P. inhabit the place after midnight.

Jack Pearson of 105 Yelverton Road, Coventry CV6 4AG has perused a book obtained from his local library entitled "One God too many Devils" and is the autobiography of Arthur Lane formerly of The Manchester Regiment with which he served in Egypt, Palestine and Singapore where he was taken prisoner by the Japanese and forced to work on the railway. He recalls that in January 1938 he was stationed in Tiberias and Acre and the Palestine Police are mentioned several times. He refers to a Constable Tibby Pierce who was shot while directing traffic in Jerusalem by an Arab youth using a .38 revolver. This sounds to us like B/Const. 1188 T. T. Pearce who was killed 28th November, 1937 but buried in Haifa. The point the author is making is that this old comrade had also served in The Manchester Regiment until six months previously when he joined the Force locally. Anyway the book is published by The Chrysanthemum Publishing House. 1989. ISBN 1 872518001. May it sell well. Also while we are about it, thank you Jack for the letter.

Jim Knaggs of 86a Avonhead Road, Christchurch 4, New Zealand wrote to our G.S., and as the Great Man is away at time of going to print, we acknowledge receipt of his cheque through these columns. His letter falls into several categories but to his list of former P.P. dwelling in the Southern Island of New Zealand, admittedly on the short size, we would add to the names of Messrs. Platts and Davidson and Mrs. Lily Gibson all of whom he is aware, the names: P. J. Kenny C.P.M. (ex-B/Sgt. 2017) of 6/32A Peer Street, Christchurch 4 which must be near him somewhere and M. F. (Mervyn) Burgess, 28 Plassey Street, Havelock North, Marlborough and finally J. P. (Jock) Taylor of 47 Lewin Street, Balclutha, Otago, who is formerly B/Const. 4308 and about whom mention has been made elsewhere. Jim then states that in reference to a former Tracer entry in March last, when news was sought of Christopher James Dougdale Sykes, he went to Palestine with Chris Sykes and boarded S.S. "Louis Pasteur" at Liverpool on V.E. Day 1945. After P.M.F. service, Chris went on to Hebron and after that Jerusalem C.I.D. Tim has not seen him since they came home together. Surely someone can come up with a bit more. (See Tracer Section - Ed.)

From the U.S.A. came a letter from David and Ursula Rooney who have been wandering around the U.K. recently but who will actually be located at 5232 Par Place, Fairway Heights, Rocklin, California 95677. The couple have visited York where they met Joe and Ruby Keeton and Charlie and Betty Gardner. John Grieve joined the party and came down from Scotland to provide physical evidence. In London they met Micky Hills but then had the return flight westwards on their minds. Prior to all this the Rooneys had cruised from Venice to Nice and then the call came to visit Scotland. This is something one can well understand. As far as we can see it was at this point that John Grieve talked them into making the journey to York. Or something like that. Whatever order these finally took shape, we trust they enjoyed every minute of it. We now have a photograph which may well appear in a future issue. There is a bit of a queue for photographs as a matter of fact, but we will try and edge it in somewhere.

The Tracer Section still works, we are glad to say and now refer readers to page 61 of the last issue wherein we seek the whereabouts of John Barrow. A letter from Les Stelfox of 49 Cherry Close, Milton Regis, Kent ME10 2DF (not Milton Keynes, chaps. The "other" place in Buckinghamshire). Les is able to place the missing John fairly and squarely at 1 Tyne House, Riverside Maltings,

Oundle, Northamptonshire PE8 4DE. Apart from their Palestine experience, both of them served in The Cheshire Regiment in 1931 and came from the same town, so they have remained friends. This editor seems to remember calling The Cheshires The Acorn Boys and for some reason the nickname Lighting Conductors comes to mind. One of the few regiments that have remained uncontaminated by amalgamations which is good for them. In the present climate how long will this last? But thanks for the letter Les. We will see what our G.S. will make of it.

In what seems thousands of years ago, but might be every bit of five, D. A. F. (Derek) Sayer of 2 Staplers Court, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2XB, wrote a nice letter to our G.S. at some point after rejoining the Association. Any reasonable reader might take the view that such a communication earned a more prompt attention than this has evidently received. Not so much a lapse as a state of unremitting and indescribable chaos on our part. A situation not likely to improve. But back to Derek's letter. Firstly he points out his service at Jenin Depot, thence to Mount Scopus, followed by Affulleh as B/Const. "I" and six months in Nazareth, a further six months in Safed and then finally as a sergeant at Salha. This amounts to a good introduction to Palestine we would say. Apart from the happy thought that he wrote to us in the first place and we have now actually responded, we refer you all to The Tracer Section, where Derek is seeking the whereabouts of his old friend "Jeep" Hillier. This would be nice if after all this time, this was one of the occasions when our Tracer Section actually traced somebody, as it has been known to do.

Jack McGlew of Boyerstown House, Navan, Co. Meath wrote in June and it was particularly nice to know that he has been in touch with Dermot Carty. Jack was 549 in Palestine and Dermot was 2876. Both had an enjoyable day by all accounts at the wedding of Jack's daughter Gertie, last August. Also their wives get on famously so it is nice to know that two old comrades, living near, can keep an eye on each other. Dermot (Paddy) Carty went on to serve a long time in The Royal Hong Kong Police, as many know. This editor remembers him best when he was on C.I.D. Nablus and has a photograph of a lithe and fit "Paddy" to prove it. We know he now has leg "trouble" and plays the matter down as much as possible but we all wish him well from the top of the P.P. pyramid. Meanwhile Jack appears also in The Sick Parade Section of this issue.

Tony Keeling (former A.S.P.) of 14 Wykeham Place, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 9QT kindly wrote to inform us that he had noticed the reported death of J. D. Doherty in *The Daily Telegraph* in mid July. As often happens, we had missed it, so we are always obliged for such thoughtful nudges. We ought to write and thank him and doubtless will have done so by the time people read this. Onbashi's reference to H. R. Townsend in the last issue prompted a useful response from Vic Cannings, 47 The Myrke, Slough, Berkshire SL3 9AB, whose name was also mentioned in connection with The Tennis Cup held by this association. Vic reminds us that "Townie" was at one time in Jerusalem District C.I.D. and also played centre half for the Force soccer XI. He also came from the Streatham/Croydon area. This was a most useful pointer, because reference to our sports records reveals Townsend the Force soccer man, and Townsend the Lydda District soccer man, so we are really very pleased to get such a helpful letter.

O. W. Donbavend of 30 Woodlands Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Greater Manchester SK4 3DQ has made a discovery he deems of importance and has reported accordingly. We agree, and by way of a surprise item for the future we aim to reproduce it in the next issue and thank him for sending it to us. Gerald Green of Northleach, Gloucestershire should be on the Newsletter staff as we get a long and goodly stream of titbits to embellish these notes with almost every issue. For a start, his attempt to trace Ziva Shohan, as reported on page 63 of Newsletter 156 has brought assistance from Isaac Lipshitz, Superintendent of Police, Haifa and an advertisement in the Israeli Police Magazine last June may produce a result. Secondly, Gerald's pal, Don Miles – former B/Const. 3340, of 16/16 Queens Parade, Devonport, Auckland 9 is – or was – actually staying with him in Gloucestershire at time of writing his last missive which is dated 7th July. The two were invited to attend The Birthday Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother on Horse Guards Parade on the occasion of her 90th Birthday celebrations. An item which made excellent television viewing by the way. Finally for Gerald Green watchers, he is one of three former comrades who travelled to Palestine together and who were recently reunited. They were John Thompson, Gerald Green both of Gloucestershire and C. V. J. (John) Botting of Glasgow. The memorial meeting took place at Weston-Super-Mare. Perhaps there should be a blue plaque on the wall to remind posterity of such an epic gathering.

Harry Arrigonie of Brahms Str. 3, 5308 Rheinbach, Germany wrote to point out that he may have omitted to remind us of a change of address. To date he is short of the June issue of the Newsletter. We will try and sort it out for him but old friends might like to know that Harry – like the bedouin of old – now has summer and winter pastures. From April to November he can be found at the above address. But November to April he will as likely as not be at: Rambla Dos, Apartamento 401, Bejamar, Tenerife, Canary Islands. We do not quite know what our General Secretary will make of this. Some time ago we received from Harry, who is also a former Northern Rhodesia man, a synopsis of a murder enquiry which was of great interest. Although we acknowledge its receipt, we are not sure if it is for this Newsletter. In due course we shall write to Harry about the matter. Time grinds exceedingly slowly around here.

There are quite a few letters that must wait for the next issue. What is called the guillotine in this office and pretty merciless at that. But we must thank Mrs. Madeline Minnett of Castleway Cottage, Stoulgrave Lane, Woodcroft, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7QH, widow of the lately lamented George Minnett, who wrote a lovely letter back in April last (See also Further to Obituary Notice already given – *Ed.*) If your letter has not been mentioned, please bear with us. We shall run out of pages.

THEN



The young Bernard Smith – B/Const. 3013 taken at Clairwood Camp, Natal. July 1941.

NOW



Bernard Smith and Maurice Hatch. Taken August 1989. Two former Jeninies is inscribed on the back of the picture. No comments please.

MEEN HADA?



*This face keeps appearing in old photographs. But who is he?
Photograph from the collection of the late Tich Freeman.*

MEEN HADUL?



An interesting picture of firearms instruction. But who are they? Is it B/Sgt. 2212 A. A. Munday who joined 14th January 1939 instructing B/Const. 1214 F. Corpe who joined 28th August 1942? Or is either or both someone else? Picture circa 1945/1946 from the collection of the late Tich Freeman. There is a feeling of professionalism about the picture which suggests it was taken by a member of Headquarters staff. Right or wrong?

INSPECTION MID 1930s



The ranks are well nigh perfect. Scene of inspection by the High Commissioner Sir Arthur Wauchope. His Aide de Camp in full Highland uniform, but his regiment is not known. The story goes that an Englishman in the ranks whispered loudly that they were being inspected by a Barbarian from Caledonia, whereby after dismissal he was debagged by some Scotsmen in the squad. True or false? We shall never know.

Picture from collection of the late Tich Freeman.

TRANSPORT – VERY EARLY YEARS



Circa 1924.

TRANSPORT MIDDLE YEARS



Circa 1938 to 1943.

TRANSPORT LATE YEARS



Circa 1944 – 1947.

LONDON BRANCH

The branch meets on the first Saturday of every month at The Cardinal, "Headquarters", Francis Street, London SW1 at 8.00 p.m. The presence of the ladies is positively encouraged.

Chairman Emiritus: T. J. Shand Esq.

Chairman: L. Sexton, 42 Barbara Brosnan Court, 46 Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 9NP. Tel: 071-289 0041.

Vice-chairman: T. Isted, Flat 6, 34 Erskine Road, Walthamstow, London E17 6RZ. Tel: 081-520 5914.

Secretary: W. Anderson, 19 Priestly Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2LL. Tel: 081-648 8324.

Acting Secretary: (June to October 1990): Paddy O'Boyle, 21 Cavendish Close, Kilburn, London NW6 7XU. Tel: 081-451 1745.

Treasurer: T. Freeburn, 24 Dale View Avenue, Chingford, London E4 6PL. Tel: 081-524 2081.

Committee: Messrs. R. Hamilton, P. O'Boyle, L. Ratcliffe and C. Wood.



The monthly gatherings at The Cardinal, although not the crowded affairs of former years, still attract a nucleus of attendance which makes it all worthwhile. At the May gathering, for instance, we were able to welcome Reg Priestly from Australia and Don Mayo from Wales. For those without atlases to hand, we would point out that Wales is the nearer of the two locations. From home, we fielded Tom Isted, John Gibbons, Micky Hills, Gerry Keown, John and Dorothy Foster, Len Sexton, Laurie and John Ratcliffe, Don Williams, Arthur and Muriel Dawson as well as Bill and Florence Parks and Paddy O'Boyle. The June gathering was slightly larger and this time those on parade were: Len Sexton, Branch Chairman, Central Council Member and Soukh Master himself, Tom Freeburn, Terry Shand (Association Chairman), John Gibbons, John Gardiner, Bill and Flo Parks, Paddy O'Boyle, Tom Isted, Micky Hills, Bill Shearman, Stan and Margaret Baxendale, Don and Eileen Williams, Jim Weekes, and Peter and Hilda Tombs and David Niven. "Come back Bill" was distinctly heard as Acting Branch Secretary Paddy O'Boyle took away the raffle prize he was running having also scooped one at the May meeting.

The July meeting was something else and represented quality as well as quantity. Tom Isted was one of the first to arrive and was soon flanked by two Chelsea Pensioners, namely John Bond (Sergeant) and a former P.P., we are proud to state with a companion, Corporal Jock Weir, another former P.P., formerly of No. 3 Company P.M.F., who is now a rejoined member of the Association. James Kirkcaldy dropped in from Winnipeg, Canada as though it was just across the road. He came via Scotland, Hebron and Traffic Section, probably in that order. This was the first time he has attended any Association meeting as he thought the former Palestine Police Association he had joined before leaving Jerusalem, had folded. He acquired the first Newsletter he had

ever seen and we hope he enjoyed his evening. But wait, there's more. Alvin and Norah Edginton also arrived and introduced Ken and Hazel Marple. It appears that Alvin works at The Guards Museum, Wellington Barracks and there met Nancy Haubner, one of our most active "sisters" in our great family who was wearing her P.P. brooch. That was it. Another was brought into the fold. It was particularly nice because Alvin and Jock Weir served together in the P.M.F. and so there was a high rate of "chat" that measured clearly on the decibel counter. Bert Ogden came down from East Midlands Branch area, a former Nabulsi and Jaffawi/Tel Avivi if that is the correct way to describe a Manshieh Police Station "wallah". If all this was not enough Don Miles was much in evidence from New Zealand talking to Stan and Margaret Baxendale. The scene was garnished with regulars who included Terry Shand, Don and Eileen Williams, Laurie and Joan Ratcliffe, Micky Hills and Paddy O'Boyle. Our holidaying Secretary has often said that the Cardinal "Headquarters" meetings are still an essential ingredient to P.P. fraternisation and this particular meeting has proved him right.

There is a bit of prologue to the July meeting at The Cardinal which for the record was on Saturday 7th. It so happens that on the previous day, Bert Ogden, Stan Baxendale and Tom Isted had visited The Royal Chelsea Hospital to see John Bond and after a convivial gargle of ale in the pensioner's mess, our heroes were approached by another pensioner whose "radar screen" had picked up signals of three P.P. ties being worn. So he asked if the wearers were former members of The Palestine Police and was told "Yes". He replied "This has made my day". He turned out to be Robert Weir, latterly of No. 3 Coy. P.M.F. at Kafr Vitkin. That is how he and John Bond came to attend the Cardinal meeting on the following evening. It also proves the value of wearing THE TIE, wherever one gets the chance. Both hope to be on Parade at The Cenotaph in October next. We thank Tom Isted for passing this gen of Newsletter news to the Editor's desk.

P.O'B.

SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: W. H. (Bill) Church, 1 Wimbourne Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5AQ. Tel: (0737) 765488.

Vice Chairman/Secretary: Maurice Hill, 7 Selhurst Close, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 2SR. Tel: (0903) 776661.

Treasurer: M. W. Brackston, 5 Browns Lane, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4LG. Tel: (0903) 744502.

Committee: E. S. C. Lillywhite, J. L. Niven, R. W. H. Pemble, R. G. Turner and E. H. Weekes.



The Branch Annual General Meeting was held at The Birch Hotel, Haywards Heath on 20th May, 1990. This venue proved to be a fortunate choice as the facilities and service for the meeting and the luncheon which followed were exceptionally good. Twenty-one members attended the meeting and 40 people sat down to luncheon.

HOLIDAY IN BRITTANY

**IN THE BEST OF THE FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE WITH
ITS WONDERFUL COASTLINE**

**TRENOGOAT FARMHOUSE
29116 MOELAN-SUR-MER, FRANCE.
Tel: (010-33) 98.39.62.82**

**Ensuite rooms – French or English Breakfast
Optional evening meal – Children most welcome –
Licensed – many extras.**

Proprietors: Terry and Jill Williams

We are less than two hours from the ferry ports of Roscoff and St. Malo.

Double room 170 Francs per night – weekly terms too.

At the meeting the names of 11 Branch members who had died within the past year were read out. Herbert (Jimmy) James (full initials H.W.M.) of 20 Church Street, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5BJ, has kindly undertaken the duties of Branch Secretary as from January 1991. Also Mike Brackston has taken over as Branch Treasurer following the reluctant resignation of Maurice Clarke. We hope everyone will soon get used to these changes. Also Albert Hawkrigde has felt obliged to resign from the committee after many years of steadfast service to this branch. Let us not forget the years 1969 to 1977 when Albert served on Central Council, so that we owe him much. He has agreed to continue to deal with arrangements for the Quarterly Luncheons in Sussex. It is worth noting that this branch has always been well represented on Central Council and of the present committee members, we have J. L. Niven serving on Council since 1984, R. W. H. Pemble serving since 1988 and R. G. Turner who did serve from 1958 to 1969. E. H. Weekes is a former Chairman of this branch. In all this we are lucky.

We are specially pleased to welcome Mrs. Agnes Beard to the meeting, this lady being the widow of our late Branch Secretary and we were pleased to note that Mrs. Evelyn Church, our Chairman's wife, was now fit enough to attend.

Largely because of holidays only 16 attended the Quarterly Luncheon at The Smugglers Roost, Rustington on 17th June but we had a very enjoyable time and point out the next luncheon will be at the same venue on Sunday, 9th September. It is hoped this Newsletter will reach readers in time to remind them of the branch Away Weekend at Sittingbourne on 22nd/23rd September, 1990. Major General The Viscount Monckton of Brenchley and Lady Monckton have accepted an invitation to be our guests at the dinner/dance.

NEW FOREST HUFLI

Katha and Ann Shand invite you to

**A PALESTINE HUFLI IN THE HEART OF
THE NEW FOREST**

Sunday, 2nd September, 1990

say about noon.

The venue being:

**LINFORD FARM HOUSE
Linford, Nr. Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3HX**

Telephone that you are coming:

Ringwood (0425) 472770

SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES BRANCH

AWAY WEEKEND

CONISTON HOTEL · SITTINGBOURNE · KENT

Saturday 22nd September, 1990

DINNER/DANCE

7.00 p.m. Tickets: £12.00 Dress: Lounge

Sunday 23rd September, 1990

LUNCHEON

1.00 p.m. Tickets: £9.50

For tickets and information:

R. W. H. (Ron) Pemble

2a Ulley Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9HT

Telephone: 0233 637844

**Hotel charges: (B & B) £44.00 double
£22.00 single**

In the far west of West Sussex a small collection of P.P. have taken to meeting each other and all come from the Selsey-Chichester area. Anyone interested in joining them should contact George Upfold of 4 Western Road, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 0UP. Anyone in the Selsey, Pagham, Wittering, Itchenor, Chichester area, and at a pinch Bognor Regis, that is. Meanwhile an interesting experience from the lips of George Upfold appears in Home Notes of this issue and just goes to show what a small world we live in.

M.H.H.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

Chairman: J. H. Leggett, Southview, 1 Hamtun Crescent, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire SO4 3PB. Tel: (0703) 863498.

Vice-Chairman: D. L. Long, 3 Sloborough Close, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5RE. Tel: (0305 81) 3528.

Acting Secretary: B. P. Henwood, 169 Stourvale Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset BH6 5HQ. Tel: (0202) 431172.

Treasurer: T. R. Walker, 8 Moonrakers Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4RD. Tel: (0425) 26761.

Minutes Secretary: Miss A. Shand, Linford Farm House, Linford, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3HX. Tel: (0425) 472770.

Committee: Messrs. E. DeVal C.P.M., H. J. Jensen, A. Metcalf, J. W. E. Tait and G. W. Vaughan.



This could be described as a quiet season, except for the Hufli Majora, or should we say el Hufli el Akhbar, that is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 2nd September 1990 at the home of Kathe and Anne Shand. (See separate advertisement in this issue – *Ed.*). This is a highly civilised, pleasant affair in which members come from afar as well as not so afar to foregather in pleasant surroundings, consisting of a large garden if there is no rain/sleet/snow/fog/gale force winds or other features native to this area. Newcomers might require a little help to get off the A31 and meander their way through the New Forest to the actual venue. There have been some adventures on that score. But all that is required is a telephone call in advance that you are coming. The Shand ladies will do the rest. That is all to the future. What of the immediate past? I have to record a mini-Hufli at Barton on Sea, the editorial base of this Newsletter. It took place at the home of Malcolm and Vera Parry, 2 Westbury Close, Barton on Sea, Hampshire BH25 7AZ. As it took place at 6.00 p.m. it might correctly be called a Soirée. Those who attended were Les and Rhona Acton and Ted and June Horne from the immediate locality, Kathe and Anne Shand from Ringwood and the purpose was to meet Danny Morrison who happened to be there at the time instead of at his usual place of abode in South Australia. Danny arrived with his old friend of many years, Mrs. Florie Evans who is well connected with this association by virtue of the fact that she is the sister of the late Tom Scofield. Tom

and Danny went to Palestine together as long ago as September 1931. As everyone might guess, we chatted and chatted and chatted. The Parry household is to be thanked for this initiative and we hope they got to bed at a reasonable hour after clearing up.

We are advised of contacts made by others in this huge and almost unmanageable branch area. Portsmouth for example, so well and truly in Hampshire, yet through the years it has not been possible to get any P.P. activity started or at least restarted there. But Micky Hills in the course of his journeyings around the country on behalf of the sick – almost in the tradition of the Knights Hospitallers of old – has been active in one of his Portsmouth visits and from Micky it is nice to know that Gordon and Sophie Dunn of 283 Laburnham Grove, Portsmouth PO2 0EY are in apparently good fettle. He and Micky then went to visit Mrs. Elsie Bethel, widow of the late Wally Bethel, only to learn she had died a couple of years back. (See Short Notices of Death – *Ed.*) Fred Hurradine then conveyed Micky on the 15-mile journey to Stubbington to see Ernie de Val, who is recovering from a stroke. Micky tried to contact R. R. (Roy) Bangs, another Portsmouth member of 36 Haslemere Road, Southsea PO4 9AZ but no reply to incessant telephone calls. (Finally see also Sick Parade – *Ed.* re. Fred Harradime G.M.) We are grateful to Micky for this sort of news about people on our own patch.

B.P.H.

SOUTH MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: J. H. Foster, 101 Howberry Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4SD. Tel: 081-954 6904.

Secretary/Treasurer: Lew H. Boffin, 13 Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7EG. Tel: (0367) 240225.



Branch members and non branch members which means everyone. Please note the change in my telephone number from 20225 to 240225. Be so good as to amend all sources of reference at once. The branch's first attempt at holding a Spring Luncheon on Sunday 22nd April last was a great success and I have been detailed to make a similar arrangement next April. In all, 62 were present and it was good to see so many new faces and these included Ann Barnett, daughter of the lately lamented Alan Sigrist, John Breen, George Gray, Arthur and Mrs. Jupp, Bill and Daphne Gibbons, John and Dorothy Foster, D. Williamson, Jack and Mrs. Nash, Jim Ferguson, Jack Bourne, Terry and Judy Shand, Micky Hills, David and Mrs. Wynne, John and Mrs. Minshall, Roy and Irene Rodrick, John and Jo Turton with two friends, Dorothy Johnson, Bill and Gladys Coles, Norman and Kay Evans, John and Mrs. Barker also with two friends, Percy and Mrs. Page, Tom and June Harbison, Les and Gladys Povey, Ernie DeVal, Doug Brain, Gerald Green, Ken and Gwen Cowdray, Alan Palmer and daughter, Betty Sandy, Jack Messenger, Mike and Sylvia Whiting, Carl and Mrs. Rowland-Tims, Jack Thompson Jock and Jean Taylor and Keith, Mrs. Johnson and friend of this

South Midlands Branch

DINNER-DANCE

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Blunsdon, Nr. Swindon, Wiltshire

Saturday, 27th October, 1990

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Tickets from Lew Boffin

Telephone Faringdon (0367) 20225

Southern and Western Counties Branch

DINNER-DANCE

COURTLANDS HOTEL

Boscombe Spa Road, Bournemouth, Dorset

Saturday, 8th December, 1990
6.30 p.m.

Dress: Lounge Suit
Book dinner through B. P. Henwood
address shown under Branch News
Hotel accommodation available
Book direct with hotel
Tel: Bournemouth (0202) 302442

branch for many years and finally Pam and myself. I apologise if I have omitted anyone. After a first class lunch, we were led by Terry Shand into singing The Holy City.

A report of our August Garden Party will appear in the next issue. (See advertisement in last issue – *Ed.*) Do not forget the big October Dinner/Dance, details in advertisement in this issue. Meanwhile the branch has stood to gain the sum of £254.03 from the sale of Derby Sweepstake tickets and I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all who sold and purchased tickets. We are proud of holding second place in the sales league.

L.H.B.

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH

Chairman: G. Dack, C.P.M., 7 Dencora House, Theatre Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1RG. Tel: (0603) 623572.

Secretary/Treasurer: C. A. (Topper) Brown, 11 Briar Lane, Swainsthorpe, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 8PJ. Tel: (0508) 470652.

Committee: Messrs. J. C. (Ras) Thompson, W. (Bill) Segrue and R. W. (Ron) Postle.



The reunion lunch is now an event of the past since it took place on Sunday, 29th July, 1990, as this issue was in print. A full report will appear in the next issue. The branch Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 14th October at the Caister Country club, Norwich at the hour of High Noon. Lunches or Bar Lunches can be obtained. Meanwhile any item of interest would be welcomed by me from branch members so that P.P. matters can be circulated to other readers and it has the additional advantage of helping me fill out my quarterly report.

C.A.B.

MIDLANDS BRANCH

Meets quarterly at The Enfield Club, Gough Street, Birmingham on the third Saturday in the months of February, May, August and November.

Chairman: Fred J. Gardiner, 14 Brampton Avenue, Hall Green, West Midlands B28 9LG. Tel: 021-744 2640.

Vice-Chairman: E. (Ted) Butler, 2 Morgan Road, Fazeley Road Estate, Tamworth, Staffordshire B78 3LA. Tel: (02827) 56382.

Secretary: Les G. Faulkes, 35 Home Farm Crescent, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2QW. Tel: (0926) 32814.

Treasurer: Alf Burton, 8 Willow Street, Desford, Leicestershire LE9 9HB. Tel: (04557) 2494.



The branch held a happy meeting on Sunday, 10th June last at The Anchor Inn, Leek Wootton in Warwickshire, where the host or he who has been described as the beverage dispenser is Paul MacMahon. The following attended: Alf and Iris Burton (Leicestershire), Derek and Joycelyn Alexander (Leicestershire), Sam and Mrs. Summerland (Leicestershire), Pat O'Sullivan and his son (Erdington, Birmingham), Neville and Marjorie Jones with friends (Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham), Hutch Hutchison (Warwickshire), Arthur Butler (Shropshire), Sam Davies (Staffordshire), Jim Marsh (Staffordshire), Fred and Anne Gardiner (Branch Chairman – Solihull, Birmingham), Jack and Peggy Pearson (Warwickshire), and Les and Gwen Faulkes (Warwickshire). (The Pearsons actually come from Coventry and the Editor rightly or wrongly put this city firmly back into Warwickshire, where he feels it belongs – *Ed.*) We all congregated outside on the lawn as the weather was ideal and must thank our host for making the day so enjoyable.

You can note in your diaries that the 42nd Annual Branch Dinner/Dance will be held on Saturday, 16th March 1991 at The Kenilworth Moat Hotel, which is now our regular venue. The price will be £12.00 per head and the hotel will be charging £17.00 per head bed and breakfast. In the circumstances all very good value.

L.G.F.

EAST MIDLANDS BRANCH

Chairman: H. G. Elvin, High View, 50 Violet Road, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 3QP. Tel: (0602) 871289.

Vice-Chairman: W. Ridgard, 36 Church Road, Burton Joyce, Nottinghamshire NG14 5GG. Tel: (0602) 313361.

Secretary: H. G. Coaten, 6 Newton Avenue, Bingham, Nottinghamshire BG13 8FJ. Tel: (0949) 37907.

Treasurer: J. H. Chettle, 3 Thoresby Road, Bramcote, Nottinghamshire BG9 3EY. Tel: (0602) 255202.

Committee: Messrs D. Alexander, A. Boneham and W. Herring.



Since the last issue this branch has held at least two meetings and both were followed by Sunday luncheon. As both were successful more will be arranged in future. But the main thing to report is the Branch Dinner/Dance arranged for Saturday, 12th May 1990 at The Swallow Hotel, Normanton, Derbyshire. Those from outside the branch area who were present were: Stan and Margaret Baxendale (London), Joyce Stewart (London), Don and Joan Cartwright (London and Central Council), Topper and Peggy Brown (Norfolk), Tom Isted (London and Central Council) and Peter and Hilda Tombs (Surrey). The remainder were our own people. The highlight of the evening was when Jack Chettle and self (Griff Coaten) led the assembly in singing The Holy City. (This editor is of the opinion that represents style, if not a measure of guts.)

Our next Dinner/Dance has been arranged for Easter Saturday which falls on 30th March 1991. It will also take place at The Swallow Hotel, Normanton and the price of the tickets has already been fixed at £11.50 per head. The hotel has agreed to keep the same price as this year, which is £22.00 per head for bed and breakfast accommodation. This is really a super offer. I would like to point out however that the numbers this year were low, 48 to be exact, simply because so many left things to the last minute. We really need a minimum of 80 to make it all worth while, so please book as early as possible and help us reach that figure.

H.G.C.

MERSEYSIDE AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at The Sergeants Mess, Liverpool Scottish Regiment, Score Lane, Liverpool 6.

Chairman: L. Adamson, 57 Alden Road, Prescot, Merseyside L34 2SG. Tel: 051-42 67198.

Vice-Chairman: H. White, 171 Bowring Park Avenue, Liverpool L16 2LE. Tel: 051-48 03724.

Secretary: A. R. Gregson, 12 Regent Avenue, Liverpool L14 6UL. Tel: 051-48 92068.

Treasurer: J. M. Thomas, 7 Rimmer Avenue, Liverpool L16 2NE. Tel: 051-48 92101.



On 13th May, 1990, members of this branch attended a Memorial Service at The Liverpool Cathedral at which Bob Ashton and Bill Mills read The Lessons. During the service a tenor soloist sang The Holy City. It was an Evensong Service and the address was given by Canon Frank Sampson, Vicar of Tuebrook which is within the city boundaries of Liverpool. The soloist, Stuart Keen, was particularly moving. The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Old Comrades' Association shared the occasion to some extent and at an appropriate moment two of the Regimental Colours were marched in, on the invitation of the P.P.O.C.A., branch organisers of the event. Those present included: Bob Ashton, Bill Mills, Harold White, Bill Pilkington, Len Adamson (Branch Chairman), Alf Gregson, Alan Mayo, Cliff Jacobsen, Bill Atherton, Albert Hughes, Ted Wevill, Ernie Taylor, Eric Roberts, Ron Roberts, Bert Wiseman and Fred Heron with wives and friends.

On Saturday, 26th May, we held the 30th Annual Dinner Dance at The Crest Hotel, Liverpool at which 123 sat down to an excellent roast lamb dinner. The Association General Secretary John Foster said Grace and acted as Toastmaster throughout the evening. After "The Queen", the important Toast to Absent Friends was given by Harold White. That to Our Guests by Alf Gregson and the Responder was Derek Marks, Headmaster of The Royal Liverpool School for the Blind (this is a school that this particular branch has donated to each Christmas

for many years). The Toast to the Association was given by J. L. (David) Niven of Central Council. Dancing continued until 1.00 a.m. On Sunday the Association Derby Sweepstake Draw, organised by Ron Pemble, was drawn. Those who attended from afar included: Sam Davies, Jim Marsh, Dodger Green, Bill and Eunice Anderson and Bill Anderson Jnr., Tom Isted, Mick Hills, Tom Freeburn and Jessica, Stan and Margaret Baxendale, Sid Johnson, John and Dorothy Foster, Terry and Judy Shand, David Niven, Ron and Phyllis Pemble, Agnes Beard, "Dicky" Dines, Bert Ogden and his sister, Cliff Edwards, Arthur Summerland, Alf and Iris Burton, Lew and Pam Boffin, Bill and Daphne Gibbons. Altogether a marvellous weekend.

A.R.G.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH

Chairman Emeritus: H. J. Keeton, Esq.

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: R. Saxon, 46 St. Paul's Road, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 0EX. Tel: (0484) 428247.

Vice-Chairman: T. E. Garbutt, 393 Apperley Road, Apperley Bridge, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 0PU. Tel: (0274) 615628.

Social Secretary: D. Bland, 28 Southwood Road, Thorn, Nr. Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN8 5QS. Tel: (0405) 813242.

Committee: Messrs J. Brown, E. Isherwood and A. Wheelhouse.



On Saturday, 19th May, 1990, 32 members and their ladies gathered at The Green Dragon, Emley Moor. Apologies for absence were received from Joe and Ruby Keeton, Les and Beryl Sexton and Harry Hartley. It was nice to have "Spencer" and Kath Tracy with us and also John Wetherall from Cleethorpes as well as Jim Craig from Shropshire. Jim was one of the favoured six allotted the number ONE (1) in Palestine and was the fifth to hold that distinguished number.

The next branch meeting took place on Saturday, 14th July, also at The Green Dragon. This time 22 enjoyed luncheon. the list of apologies was on the long side and included Joe and Ruby Keeton, Charles Dickenson, "Spencer" and Kath Tracy, Jack Kerwin, Don McHamish, Denis and Margaret Green, Harry and Kath Hartley, Jane Metcalfe, and Eric and Nancy Isherwood. We have a new branch member, however, and are pleased to welcome Bill McVee and his wife, Joan. Charles Dickinson has moved from his former address and can now be found at 21A Bellhouse Way, Foxwood, York, North Yorkshire YO2 3LL. (Will be shown in Changes Of Address section in a future issue – Ed.)

At our 1990 24th Annual Dinner/Dance that took place on 7th April at York, 63 booked in. A rough breakdown of this figure shows that 23 were members of this branch and their wives. Four were Associate Members and a further eight were Association Members from other branch areas. The remainder were guests. This matter was the subject of much debate at a recent Branch Committee

meeting and it was sadly decided that next year's 25th Dinner/Dance must be cancelled. It was felt on balance better to finish on "A High" rather than let such an important occasion be a flop. But we still have other "goodies" to look forward to and the Fun Night is still to be held on Saturday, 3rd November, 1990 when fancy dress may be worn. This is set for 12.00 noon for 1.00 p.m. This seems likely to be popular and the list is already pretty full so that only paid up branch members should now consider taking up empty places. Meanwhile there will be a branch gathering at noon on Saturday, 15th September, at The Green Dragon.

During the last quarter the branch has been in touch with: Colin Atkinson of Keighley, Peter Cromack, Dennis and Olive Usher, Jack Kerwin, George and Rene Washington of Ilkley, Rene Henfrey, Ted and Pauline Wayper of Bradford and Les and Chris Salmon. (We have not been told where all these members live so we have had to break our rule and not quote locations of residence and hope no inconvenience is caused to those wishing to telephone or write – Ed.)

We did consider the idea of a coach to take branch members on an early morning dash to London on Sunday, 7th October, so as to attend The Cenotaph Parade. Particularly as the parade will be filmed by the B.B.C. this year, and we all want to look our best. But this scheme has had to be dropped because of lack of numbers. But why not interested members join forces and share expenses so as to make up three, four or even five car loads for this very special occasion? Because of the filming, it is a special occasion and a good turn out is almost essential.

More about our Branch Christmas luncheon in the next issue, although it is wise to make a note of the date now, as the Newsletter does take a long time to get "airborne" sometimes. It is Saturday, 8th December, 12.00 noon for 1.00 p.m. at £9.00 per head. Booking as usual through Derrick Bland.

R.S.

SCOTTISH BRANCH

Chairman: C. Kennedy, West Lodge, Clayton, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9YE. Tel: (0334) 87242.

Secretary/Treasurer: J. M. Lindsay, 2 Lomond Bank, Glenfarg, Perthshire PH12 9PF. Tel: (05773) 382.

Hon. Chaplain to the Branch: The Very Rev. Professor R. Craig, C.B.E., Hon.C.F. (former Moderator of the Church of Scotland and former Minister of Scottish Memorial Church of St. Andrew in Jerusalem.)



Our June luncheon drew 63 members, friends and relatives who sat down to an excellent meal in very good company. Our Chairman, whom we welcomed back from his Far East wanderings, addressed us and welcomed visitors. These included W. C. (Bill) Anderson from "Down Under". We were pleased to see Jim Gander from Beauly, Inverness-shire, who had accompanied Bill on a Highland tour. Then there was Hugh Macdonald, also of Inverness, and Mrs. Gellatley of

Perth who was with her daughter, Fiona, from Aberdeen. We were also pleased to see The Rev. W. Sinclair-Armstrong, formerly B/Const. 111 who although officially retired, now lives in Perth and both he and his wife, Hazel, attend our meetings regularly and bring with them their good friends John and Margaret Nelson from Edinburgh. Ann Gray and Bill Barron turned up, each requiring walking sticks to assist with movement. (See Sick Parade – *Ed.*) Bob Low was also there from Aberdeen, having broken down when last trying to attend while in the company of Les Fleming of the same city. This brings me to report that on a recent trip to Aberdeen, I called on Les Fleming at Portlethen. He is ex-B/Const. 4192 (1945 to 1948). Les has enjoyed a remarkable career in The Royal Air Force, The Army as well as The Palestine Police but at the present time is precluded from travelling to our functions (See Sick Parade – *Ed.*).

The “Big One” is of course the Annual Dinner/Dance that is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 25th August, 1990 at The City Mills Hotel, Perth. (See separate advertisement – *Ed.*) We anticipate seeing Sam and Rae Summerland from Leicester, Bert Ogden from Derbyshire, and Stan and Margaret Baxendale from London among all those from other branch areas who have booked in. The December issue will contain our report of the event. The £132.87, as our share from the Derby Draw ticket sales, was very welcome to our branch funds. We had a couple of minor wins in the branch area. It will help with our aim to send £200 this year to the school for blind children in Bethlehem (my first posting). This is something we particularly wish to do.

J.M.L.

Proprietor: B.P. Henwood

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AUSTRALIA (Victoria Branch)

Chairman: A. C. W. (Allan) Bolton, 7 Bowen Street, Richmond, Victoria 3121.

Vice-Chairman: R. L. (Reg) Priestley, 4 Clifffdale Avenue, Deception Bay, Queensland 4508.

Secretary: Frank Baines, 7/10 Dickens Street, Elwood, Victoria 3184. Tel: 534 6510.

Treasurer: Cedric Coxsedge, 8 Leicester Street, North Balwyn, Victoria 3104.

Committee: Messrs. W. W. E. P. (Gus) Hardy, Arthur Judd, Pat Kelliher and S. A. (Sidney) Mann.



A total of 38 members, wives and guests attended our Annual Dinner held on 12th May at the Police Club, Melbourne. Jim and Marg Hunt again came across from South Australia. Tom and Jane Quelch arrived from Belmont. Mary Gow managed to get Bill Calvert there, too. Dave Golds tracked down Douglas Rolf and came along. Ernie Brice found himself sitting next to Len Scarlett. All this set the tone for the evening and we thank locals as well as those who travelled great distance for turning up and making it all a success. Meanwhile, others not so far mentioned, include: Bill Batley, Frank Baines, Allan and Fleur Bolton, John Carter, Dorothy Moss, Cedric and Joan Coksedge, Mrs. Edwards, Wally and Kitty Hand, Gus and Margo Hardy, Bryan and Gladys Hogg, Arthur and Patricia Judd, Pat and Georgina Kelliher, Sidney and Valery Mann, Georgina Pratt, and finally George and Shirley Robinson. There were three guests from the Templars Society who were well acquainted with Palestine.

We also held a Queen's Birthday gathering at which the Brice tribe were present or at least most of them. Bob Yates, Pat and Arthur Judd, Pat and Georgina Kelliher, our erstwhile secretary Frank Baines, Len Scarlett and Fleur and myself (Allan Bolton), made up the gathering. At this juncture the branch would like to acquire a Mandate Flag as well as a Force Flag, so if anyone has any ideas please let us know. We are thinking of lodging both flags in the Victoria Police Academy for safe keeping, with the proviso that we are able to borrow them from time to time when we need them.

The Annual Dinner received a useful amount of press notices, we are glad to say and as the result of a report in a Ballarat newspaper we received an enquiry from a Gary Young of 11 Camp Street, Clunes, 3370 Victoria from which we learn that he is selling off (or has sold off) his collection of badges. This includes a Palestine Police collar badge which he values at 20 dollars. Anyone interested should contact him direct. (This news is from Taht el Taht. No. 10, so must be old hat by the time non Australian readers get this far – *Ed.*) Meanwhile some of our ladies are going to provide a luncheon on 19th August at the home of Pat and Georgina Kelliher, 8 Hector Street, Brighton, Victoria, and doubtless something will be said about this in the next issue.

A.C.W.B.

AUSTRALIA (Western Australia Branch)

Chairman: S. G. Thompson, 25 Tamarisk Way, Woodlands, Western Australia 6018.

Secretary/Treasurer: Charles Eadon-Clarke, 9 Sutherland Close, Guildford, Western Australia 6055.



Perth is roughly Lat. 32°, Longitude 116° for those seeking our whereabouts on a map. Things do happen here from time to time, but this is not the time of year. As a former member of The Police Players in Palestine it is good to see Rowena Matheson-Cullen's name cropping up from time to time. Through this column I would say "Do you remember Rowena, when you played Aunt Dora in The Mocking Bird?". Meanwhile all best wishes from all those down here to all those up there.

C. E-C.

NEW ZEALAND BRANCH (Auckland)

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: N. S. (Paddy) Stewart, 39 Walter Street, Takapuna, Auckland 9, New Zealand. Tel: 010-649-463 485.



On 8th April, 1990, the remnants of the Kiwi Branch met for a social lunch at the home of Don and Vera Miles. Those present were: Jack and Connie Binsley, John and Joan Barnett, Paddy and Hanna Stewart, Sylvia Smith and Lola Brothers accompanied by her brother John Lucas. It was a pleasant lunch session enjoyed by all and only marred by the absence of our second senior member Frank Brothers. (See Sick Parade – *Ed.*) Some weeks back I had a telephone call from Don Cartwright of Central Council who was visiting his brother in Mount Roskill, a suburb of Auckland. I was hors de combat at the time (Again see Sick Parade – *Ed.*) but it would have been nice to see Don again as we had known each other in Kenya.

By way of general news, I can report Don Miles is in the U.K. at time of writing and so is Sheila Smith. The branch will not be meeting again until September (mid winter in these parts). For myself, Hanna and I will always be pleased to welcome P.P. passing through, but so as to give a decent sort of welcome and perhaps a get-together, please notify us in advance by telephone or letter so that we have time to organise.

N.S.S.

The Editor has also had correspondence from other New Zealanders. Notably Jack Binsley, whose name was mentioned on page 57 of the last issue in connection with his Memoirs which form a valuable addition to our archives. It seems that Jack, now 84, and Connie, now 85, are a remarkable example of

healthy longevity. Both words to be taken relatively, we daresay. Jack Binsley Snr. and John Binsley Jnr. are among the rare examples of father and son who served in the Palestine Police. There were others. Two useful letters from Jock Taylor, former B/Const. 4308 of 47 Lewin Street, Balclutha, Otago, New Zealand, were of great interest to us. We are inclined to agree with Jock that he is probably the southernmost member of this association. We doubt whether any member actually lives on the Antarctic continent, even if sometimes arctic and sub arctic conditions persuade one that they appear to be living there. For the moment this dubious but interesting honour goes to Jock.

Another New Zealander who wrote as long ago as 20th March, last, is N. G. (Gordon) Davidson of 83 Eatwell Avenue, Paraparaumu Beach, Nr. Wellington, New Zealand. It seems that Gordon and his wife, Aileen, really enjoyed the visit they received from Don and Joan Cartwright in February. Formerly in The Diplomatic Service, Don and Joan make fine ambassadors and every inch a Central Council member. While Gordon, who went on to serve in The Arab Legion after leaving The Force, could match things point for point. So doubtless they struck a fine and happy foursome. The men had not seen each other for 43 years. Happy days.

Editor

SWAZILAND BRANCH

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Dodds, P.O. Box 777, Mbabane, Swaziland.

Committee and Sole Member of the Branch: Peter Dodds.



The Annual General Meeting, and elections, of the Branch were unavoidably postponed this year due to an important sartorial loss. The Chairman's TIE was in his luggage which disappeared on route from Maseru, Lesotho, to Swaziland. It is part of the Branch Constitution that the Chairman shall be properly dressed when business is conducted and until the soukh master has supplied a replacement the meeting is held in abeyance. The current Chairman, Mr. Peter Dodds (B/Const. 2082) is, nevertheless, the only candidate standing for election. The only other event worthy of mention was a recent visit to South Africa, by the Chairman, to attend a luncheon of the Kenya Police Association which was attended by Phil and Enid Hardisty. The Dodds and the Hardistys are friends of many years standing and were reunited after nearly a generation. As a memento of those occasions Enid had with her a photograph of herself and Phil, on the day of their marriage, visiting the Nairobi Hospital to share a little of their joy with two notable invalids, in adjoining beds, B/Sgt. J Cass and B/Const. P. Dodds. The annual donation to the Branch of £10.00 is enclosed. It has been taken from Branch funds which will be recouped when the annual raffle is held.

P.D.

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THE GREAT FIGHT AT ARTUF

Now that we are growing old, many of our members who knew both Stacey Barham and Maxie Cable, have gone on to patrol their districts in the sky. However, before I mount my "Pegasus" to do a rural patrol up above, I feel I must commit to paper my reminiscences concerning the aforementioned Stacey and Maxie.

When Maxie fought for the Force as a cruiserweight, Stacey was usually in his corner acting as his second. But not so many know how that trust, confidence, respect and friendship started. It really was a quite surprising incident and I feel it does make a good story. You've all heard of "The Fight at the O.K. Corral." But few have heard of the "Fight at Artuf". It so happens that in the autumn of 1938, the political situation and the state of public security was such that the strength of five British Police at Artuf, was absolutely insufficient to maintain the confidence of the Jewish settlers with possibly 3,000 "Assabi" mustering in the locality, waiting to attack and wipe out the small Jewish settlement of Har Tov (the good hill). Stacey Barham was at that time I./C. Artuf as 2/B/M/Sgt., and I was one of the four constables completing the strength.

Fluent in both Hebrew and Arabic and well versed in law, Stacey was very highly regarded as the leader of the small band at Artuf. He was also well known throughout the Force, as "a bit of a lad" and someone who enjoyed a drink and a bit of fun. However, he was also one who nothing mean or petty ever did. An Arab from a nearby village, just beyond Sara the birthplace of Samson, rode in to see Stacey one day and told him that an attack was imminent. He said "Mr. Barham, I promised you that I would come and let you know if you were in danger and today I've come for that purpose. The Assabi are ready to attack Har Tov. I with my young men will join them. I don't want to but I have no choice in the matter. I can now only warn you as I promised I would and tell you to get reinforcements in men and arms. I leave you now and I shan't be able to come back again. Don't disregard what I've said." And so he left. He mounted his old grey mare and rode away. I watched Abed Abed ride away and then Stacey came to me because I was the only British rank available. Parker and another were in Jerusalem on leave and Dance was ill with malaria. So Stacey and I were the only two there fit to fight. There happened to be a young Jewish Special Constable from Jerusalem at Artuf at the time with a car. He was on some sort of Jewish Settlement Police business and he was given a message by Stacey to take back and hand in at Jerusalem Rural Police Headquarters.

Next day five B/Constables from Jerusalem arrived as reinforcements. Maxie Cable and Ben Sharp were among them and as far as I can remember, the others were a young Scot, Jerry McDadem, Tich Marchant and Chalmondly Spears.

They all settled in quickly and although the bedrooms became crowded, the situation was accepted and we all got on pretty well together. Maxie Cable had either a guitar or a banjo on which he used to strum away and sing to entertain and he wasn't so bad. It came out in conversation that Maxie and Ben Sharp had served in The Royal Artillery together and that Maxie had been one of the Battery boxers. This of course was interesting to Stacey Barham for he was a

good amateur boxer and had been a member of the famous Belsize Boxing Club. Maxie also said that when he left the army he had done a bit of professional boxing to earn the odd pound or two.

Events went along swimmingly for some time until we had a case of beer delivered with the rations. Unfortunately this led to a bit of a wildish party, when Ben Sharp and Maxie took a drop too much and became childishly boisterous, if not hooliganish. They were sitting around the table drinking and singing when they started banging their fists on the table surface, causing cups, plates and glasses and the like, as well as the tea pot to jump about and rattle. Then Ben Sharp in a drunken stupor shouted, "Tip it up" and up went the table and the crockery crashed to the floor breaking a fair amount. This was serious of course, for replacement would mean an inquiry and repayment of the cost. Stacey had been busy doing some of his office work and when he heard the crash, came in. He looked with disgust at Maxie and Ben Sharp and then in a cold fury, he picked up a set of boxing gloves and threw a pair towards Maxie Cable saying: "You and I had better settle this matter right now".

So commenced the famous Fight at Artuf.

The adversaries took their corners and somehow Ben Sharp appointed himself as referee and time-keeper. I seemed to appoint myself as general overseer and second to Stacey. Our boxers squared up and circled each other and Stacey let go a left jab that lightly connected with Maxie's jaw. "Oh ho", said Maxie, "I'd better remember I've got a Belsize Boy against me." "All right, pro", countered Stacey, "I've just about got your measure." And so the contest progressed with neither opponent able to gain real mastery of the other. From time to time Ben Sharpe called "Time" and the contestants took a rest. After a while darkness fell and two lamps were lit while the battle continued. Then I said to Stacey that I felt it had gone on long enough but he replied: "I really can't stop now Matey, for I threw out the challenge". So it continued for a few more rounds. Then as a go-between, I walked over to Maxie and said I felt it ought to stop now and he agreed that if Stacey ordered him to stop he would. But this seemed to throw the onus onto Stacey and he felt he couldn't back down so the fight went on a few more rounds until I said to Stacey: "Come on Stack, this is enough. You'll all think differently in the morning."

Now to cut a long fight short and this had lasted at least an hour and a half, Stacey, prompted by me, said: "Cable, it's apparent we shall not reach a decision tonight, if you are so minded, we'll finish the fight tomorrow". And that was it. Maxie had terrific respect for Stacey ever after and as I noted at the outset of this story, during all those Police v Army contests, when Maxie represented The Force as light-heavyweight, Stacey was there in his corner as his principal second.

Ten years after the Artuf Fight, when we were all three in Safed, Stacey as D.S.P., Maxie as Mounted Sergeant and myself as British Inspector, Maxie said to me, "You know Matey, the P.P. has given me my education. Before I joined The Force, I never knew what decency really meant."

Robin (Matey) Martin

MORE ABOUT NAMES

On previous occasions I have been able to comment from time to time on the diversity of names we served under in Palestine. Both family names which we used to call surnames and personal or first names which were once known as Christian names. In particular, nicknames came in for much interesting attention. Was there ever such a body of men that dubbed so many different sobriquets upon its constituent members as The Palestine Police? Yet on the subject of surnames one can speculate almost for ever because we impinge upon the actual origins and sources of our names too. Let me explain.

It is well known that many British surnames, particularly English names, tend to originate from either an occupation of a distant ancestor, or a place. The name of Cutler representing the former, for example and the name Covington, the latter. So that it is a matter for a little bit of one-upmanship if one's family name stems from some other source, from French or Huguenot background for example or from some ancient historic connection of unknown antiquity. It is within my understanding that Scottish, Welsh and Irish names obey similar rules to some extent, notwithstanding the very strong kith and kin connection with clan and family. So now back to Palestine.

Names drawn from colours are a bit of a puzzle but we had in our ranks Browns, Greys (and of course Grays), Greens, Blacks as well as Whites. We also had at least one Scarlet. Of the Whites by the way, we had one who was an old "China Hand", a former shipping clerk in Tiensin and he was soon dubbed "Chinese White" at the Depot, as of course he would be. The remainder simply acquired the army nickname of "Chalky". The writer has not been able as yet to log the total number of Whites who puffed up the railway line from Lydda Junction to Jerusalem on their way to Mount Scopus – or who drove to Jenin sweltering or frozen according to time of year. But at least 14 Greens have been accurately logged in our records. The Browns supplied no less than 35 at the last reckoning plus a brace of Brownes and a Brown-Hovelt (No. 2821). Three Browns appear on the Roll of Honour. Leaving colours and turning to the Smiths, once we recall publishing a special feature on representatives of the mighty Smith tribe in our Force. At least 79 Smiths served in Palestine, to which must be added a Smith-Jones, a Smith-Ross and two Smythes.

But the names of countries are somehow represented on The Nominal Roll. We had two named France and three named England (one of whom was actually a Welshman), there were two named Wales, an Ireland, a Spain and two Polands. Records also show two Hollands and two Jordans. As far as is known, no British policeman was named Nicaragua. There is supposed to have been a John Sweden in the Force but record of him has not come to light. The English counties were represented too with two Kents, a Hampshire, a Cheshire, a Rutland, a Cambridge, an Essex, a Wiltshire and a Derbyshire, as well as a Darbyshire. There was also an Oxford but without the "shire". The names of cities, towns, burghs and villages amounted to a huge contribution, which as mentioned earlier, only confirms the origins of so many of our surnames.

We know that occupations supply about a third of all English family names and there are about 150 different occupations from Fletcher to Wainmaker to

prove the point but how, one might ask, does a name with royal or peerage connections come down to us as a standard surname? The Palestine Police had seven Kings in its ranks and at least four Princes went through the depots together with two Dukes, two Lords and two Barrons (albeit spelled with two 'R's, instead of one). No Queens can be traced but then No. 3720 was a McQueen which might be acceptable.

Then one is led to wonder just how animals come to feature as a respectable British surname. At any rate those drawn from the animal kingdom and found fit enough and mentally alert enough and able-to-shoot-straight-enough to join the finest Colonial Police Force in the world are reflected in a Badger, a Panther, a Deer, as well as Deere, a Dove, a Fish, a Finch, a Pike or two and about six Foxes. (Two of whom were nicknamed "Skipper" from well known Port and Marine practice, so that no one really knows which Fox to Tally-Ho about.) As a matter of fact there was quite an aviary of Birds of whom: A. J. (1333), F. W. (1052), J. (3620), R. A. (263) and R. L. (1912) are the best remembered. F. W. Bird being the one to whom we should all give a court bow at the mere mention of his name. We had an Eagle in 471 and also a Capon (Emasculated chicken? Surely not). There were of course other names drawn from the diversified world of fauna and it is interesting to speculate just how such names can to be adopted way back in history.

The religious world too was well represented with at least two Deacons and two Pastors. There were several Bishops and at least one Pope (Surely a useful name to possess in The Holy Land). There were also at least three Monks. As far as is known there were no Nuns, but there were three Nunns, which may not count. Some names gave Headquarters and Depot staff problems and here I have in mind a General who served with us, some Sergeants (as well as Sargents and Sergents), there was a Major and a Constable. One appreciates that Constable may be the proud name of an English landscape painter but Constable Constable became ridiculous on the parade ground, as happened once. Constable Sergeant was worse. Come to think of it Sergeant Constable was no better. We also had in the estimable George Head as Constable Head and one wonders what the effect would have been if he had attained the high rank of Head Constable Head.

The human race does not run its affairs logically or former Inspectors General might have organised things differently. For example all those bearing the name Driver could have been put into the Transport Section and all those called Sparks would have been in the Wireless Section. Riders would have ridden and Clerks, Clarks and Clarkes would have pushed pens. But it was not at all like that. On reflection one can but suppose this was just as well or B/Const. 4120 R. R. Bangs would have been placed on bomb disposal duties and he might not have liked that very much. Although come to think of it, he did serve in The Royal Artillery in Korea which seems appropriate. Certainly the best place for all the "Dinger" Bells, of whom there were at least 10, would have been Police Headquarters. There to suffer the indescribable din of the Russian Cathedral bells in full "ding". It was cotton wool in ears time.

So we have had a bit of fun with all this and we can push things around in our minds by way of amusing speculation. At the end of the day and however proud we are of our family name, few of us can trace an ancestry as far back as most

Arabs. A Smith may be one thing but a Haddad is something else. A Hind in Britain is an honourable name for many but an Abu Ghazaleh in the Arab world can drop back through the centuries with effortless ease, almost to the beginning of time.

Also as an afterthought, there is something good and honest about such British tradesman names as Wainwright, Cartwright or Cooper or Wainer that reflects a lineage going back to early craftsmen of the Middle Ages. The names are solid and reliable and somehow reflect the ancient past of our nation. Whereas a name such as Lifton-Elsop-Fowler (I hope there is no such name in the telephone book), suggests some sort of sixteenth and seventeenth century land-grabbing skulduggery that would not stand the test of examination by a modern tribunal of enquiry. One is reminded of The Duke of Sutherland, scion of an ancient Scottish line and certainly Sutherland is a name to be proudly worn by a few privileged people at each stage of Scottish history. But there are those Scots who would happily have shot the ninth Duke and no wonder. It is unfortunate that so many Anglo-Irish landowners are remembered with equal approbrium. The damage done to posterity cannot be remedied.

Perhaps in Palestine we should all have used our Force Numbers more than we did. Like the practice in The Metropolitan Police in London. We did answer to them from time to time and there were no problems. The Number "One" was issued to six recipients in 28 years. No. 4500 on the other hand was issued but the once. That makes B/Const. 4500, whoever he is, absolutely unique. He should be very proud of that.

Onbashi

APOLOGIES TO BRIAN ROBB. 8th ARMY ARTIST



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WHY?

Though many years have now gone by,
I still have to wonder why. Oh why?
As police officers trying to keep the peace.
Amongst the Jews in the Middle East.
As day followed day and night followed night.
The police and army never giving up the fight.
Comrades who died, we shall never forget.
In a foreign land they were laid to rest.
Now the fighting goes on among Arabs and Jews.
This now is commonplace in everyday news.
Since our departure much blood has been shed.
Thousands injured and many left lying dead.
Peace will never reign in this land.
For each is fighting for the upper hand.
The hands of friendship will never be extended.
For no one can foretell when fued will be ended.

*W. Reilly
(Friend of W. Pilkington)
Merseyside Branch*

OBITUARY NOTICES

Once again it is my sad and wretched duty to report the passing of a dear friend and to whom I term a great character of bygone days in Palestine. I refer to former B/Sergeant 251 Harmond Hector Haggen (The Major), who was born in The Lahru State of India where he spent the early part of his life. He died at the age of 83 in Dunstable, Bedfordshire. He had been living at 26 Croft Green, Dunstable, retired after a fairly exciting life. In 1926 "The Major" joined The East Lancashire Regiment which took him to China, Palestine and Cyprus. In 1938 he joined The Palestine Police and saw service in many parts of the country including postings at Nazareth, Acre, M.P.S.F., Rama, Port & Marine and C.I.D. at Safed to name but a few places. Altogether a well known, likeable and popular figure. He served until the end of the Mandate. In 1956 he was back in Egypt with other former P.P. in The Canal Zone and like George Cooper, whose death is also recorded in this issue, was interned by the Egyptians at the time of the Suez crisis.

Once back in the U.K., he worked for Vauxhall Motors Ltd. in Luton for a further 18 years. He was a loyal and keen member of this Association and regularly attended the London A.G.M. and Reunion Dinners and the Cenotaph Parades that followed. From some of the very earliest photographs of our reunion dinners in the early 1950s, The Major's well known features could be seen. He will be deeply missed by us all and of course by Linda and his son John and all close friends to all of whom we offer our deepest sympathy. At his funeral The Association was represented by G. Keown, Bill Powers, F. R. C. Johnson, Bill Nicholls, G. Harkness, D. Oliver-Paull, Mick Hills and Tom Isted, the last two representing Central Council.

Michael Hills

Quite suddenly and without any warning came news from Jock Auld of Bonar Bridge, Sutherland of the death of I. G. (Iain) Smith of "Kirkland", Old Bank Road, Golspie, Sutherland KW10 6RS. As a young man Iain served in The Royal Artillery and was present in the memorable evacuation of British and French forces at Dunkirk. In due time, he transferred to The Palestine Police which he joined on 31st July, 1944 and proudly carried the number 3725. A native of Greenock, Jock turned out to be a highly qualified civil engineer and although he had several posts in his lifetime, he is best associated with the company Alexander Sutherland Ltd. of Golspie, that delightful East Coast Sutherland town in which he finally settled. A well known local golfer and leading citizen he did much for the community and will in consequence be deeply missed. When on a recent visit to Golspie and failing to flush him out before our coach left for Dornoch, I sent him a postcard of High Street Golspie with a message that Central Council has a long reach. Jock Smith made a suitable reply but we never met afterwards.

There was a long notice in *The Northern Times* for which we must again thank Jock Auld for his thoughtfulness. From this we see that there was a funeral service in St. Andrew's Church which was packed to overflowing. We are not surprised and it reflects the esteem and respect that Iain was held in his community. We offer our very deepest sympathy to his widow, Molly, daughter Lesley and son, Alisdair for their great loss. This association has lost another old comrade and Scotland has lost a thoroughly decent and useful citizen.

Ted Horne

We regret to announce the death of R. P. (Bob) Knight, lately of 33 Sandford Road, Winscombe, Avon BS25 1JA who passed away in early June 1990. There was an interment and funeral service at Winscombe at which the Association was represented by L. E. (Les) Povey to whom we are indebted for the information. Bob Knight served in the army from September 1940 and then joined the Force in January 1944 as B/Const. 3277, so that he would have been one of the first to pass through Jenin Depot. According to his son, Robert Knight, Bob often spoke of his days in Palestine and attended The Cenotaph Parade as often as he could. This is loyalty indeed and we deeply regret his passing. Our condolences are offered to Robert Knight and his family.

Editor

On 25th May, 1990, the death took place suddenly at the age of 77 of George (Gary) Cooper of Church House, Kimbolton Road, Bolnhurst, Bedfordshire. He died in particularly macabre circumstances in that he was at the time attending the funeral of his colleague and friend from Palestine days, H. H. Haggen, whose obituary notice also appears in these pages. George was in due time buried at Clifton, near Biggleswade in Bedfordshire near his son's residence and where he regularly attended the local church. George joined The Force in 1936 and spent most of his time in the M.T. Section at Haifa, Rehovot, Tiberias and Metulla and returning to the U.K. in 1946. In 1956 however he had obtained employment within The Canal Zone and was subsequently interned at the time of the Suez

crisis. (Put into Nasser's Bag as it was said at the time.) In later years he was self employed in the pest control business and was still so employed when he died.

The Association was represented at the funeral by: Messrs. G. Keown, G. Harkness, L. McArdle, Dr. L. J. Clarke-Wilson, S. W. (M) Hills and T. Isted. The last two named representing Central Council. John Haggen Jnr., accompanied by Linda, attended on behalf of the Haggen family. Our condolences go to George's widow Emma, Stephen his son and Sarah.

S. W. (Micky) Hills

One of the saddest tasks I have been obliged to perform as editor of this journal took place as long ago as December 1975 when in issue No. 101, I wrote an obituary notice in the name of Patrick John Hackett who died on 28th September of that year. On reading again what I then said, I like to think now that the notice will stand as a testimonial to his family of the high esteem in which Palestine Policemen held "Patsy Hackett" then and now. So it is really sad to have to inform readers that his widow, Eileen, has also died as recently as 1st July, 1990, at the age of 88 and we are indebted to her son Dr. Thomas Hackett, M.D., for letting us know. He wrote from Castle Jane Road, Glenmire, Co. Cork, Irish Republic which has been the Hackett address for some years. There must be many members and ladies among our membership who recall Eileen in Palestine and it is fitting that her departure should now be measured with solemn respect and a great sense of loss. We offer our sincere condolences to Thomas and his sister Sheila. May their dear mother Rest in Peace.

Editor

The funeral took place on Friday, 27th July, 1990 of Samuel Millington Jones at Chadwell St. Mary, Essex following his death at The Orsett Hospital on 20th July. Sam lost his wife as well as his brother on the same day three years ago and he never really recovered from the shock. He served as a young man in The Scots Guards and joined the Force on 24th October, 1942 as B/Const. 2442 S. Millington-Jones and is probably best remembered for service in the Tiberias region of Nazareth District. After return to this country he expressed a wish to be called S. M. Jones, but few of us took to the change. In more recent years he distanced himself considerably from the outside world and stopped attending P.P. functions.

At the funeral The Association was represented by Royston Price, Sidney Goodwin, S. P. Johnson and Micky Hills, the last two named from Central Council. We offer our sincere condolences to Sam's brother-in-law and many relatives and friends.

Micky Hills

I regret to have to inform readers of the death of C. F. (Charlie) Harris formerly of 95 Bordars Road, Hanwell W7 1AL. He died following a heart attack at an earlier date. Charlie was mentioned in Sick Parade in the March issue 1990 and it was in consequence of a letter from David Taylor of Wisbech, that his widow replied to say Charlie had actually passed away on 13th December, 1989. I do not know when he joined the Force but he claimed that he might possibly be the youngest member of this Association which leads me to suspect that he was of 1946/47 vintage. Behind all this is a double tragedy because on 6th December last, just one week prior to her husband's death, Mrs. W. Harris lost her son. A truly wretched situation and no words from anyone can compensate for such a double loss. On behalf of all old comrades we can but offer our deep sympathy.

Micky Hills

I have to report that *The Daily Telegraph* recently published an obituary notice in the name of the late J. D. Doherty. As far as I know Jim was not a member of this Association but I used to send him the magazine from time to time. Like me, he hardly knew or even heard of many of the members who figure prominently from issue to issue. He joined the Force in October 1936 (He would appear to be identical with 616 J. Doherty who joined the Force that year – *Ed.*). Some time after the end of the Mandate he arrived in Sierra Leone as an Acting A.S.P. and I am given to understand that he served in Sierra Leone from 1953 to 1955. Unfortunately during his last year he contracted tuberculosis and was shipped home to spend six months in hospital and convalescence. He then served in Zanzibar from 1955 to 1961 where he reached the rank of Senior Superintendent. After return to the U.K., he obtained a post as head of security at the Thames Television studios at Teddington and was so employed for the next 18 years. There was a cremation service at Kingston at which my wife and I attended and it was obvious from the size of the large turn out that he was very highly thought of in his community. He leaves two sons and to them we offer our condolences.

Tony Keeling

Sadly I have to report the passing of Margaret, wife of John Thomas, on Thursday, 26th June, 1990. She died in hospital peacefully with John and family with her. Margaret was cremated on 29th June at Springwood Crematorium, Liverpool and the following members of Merseyside Branch were in attendance: Len and Eileen Adamson, Alf and Jean Gregson and their daughter, Sue, Harold and Maureen White, Ron and Monica Savage, Fred Heron, Albert and Liz Hughes, Peter Hornby, Charles and Mona Devlin, Ron and Edna McCormack, Stan and Barbara Halden, Bill Mills and Charlie Fraser. The Holy City was played at the end of the funeral service.

Margaret will be badly missed by all members of Merseyside Branch and on behalf of all old comrades I extend our sympathies to John, son Richard and his wife Eileen, and grandchildren David and Sarah.

Alf Gregson

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS. MARGARET THOMAS – MERSEYSIDE

Far better men than I have penned tributes to departed ones but I cannot let the passing of Margaret, wife of the Merseyside Branch Treasurer, John M. Thomas, on 26th June, 1990, go without a few words, however inadequate. I was fortunate enough to meet them both when they arrived in Nablus as newly-weds in June 1946. Many of our lady readers will appreciate the trauma a new bride would experience on being confronted with a paraffin-heated cooker and Tilley lamp lighting and heating. But after a few blackouts, Margaret mastered all and I for one, and Jock Christie for another, enjoyed many an invitation to dinner afterwards. The Whittles, the Groves and the Andersons soon accepted Margaret and with the advent of Operation Polly, all the ladies were brought together even closer.

Soon after leaving Palestine in 1948, Margaret gave John a son, Richard, although John had been in Malaya for some 18 months before all three were reunited and the then blond Richard became the idol of the locals. Returning to England in 1962, they both became staunch supporters of the Merseyside Branch of this Association with John taking up the purse strings of Treasurer, a post he still holds to this day and hopefully for many more years to come. In 1963, John and Margaret were a great support to my daughter and I, when my first wife died in London. I hope I can equal that support now. The good times in Nablus and since will always be cherished by me and no doubt will continue to be recounted in the future.

In recent years loss of vision and failing health had been a burden Margaret bore with fortitude. At this moment to John and his family, sincere and deepest condolences are offered. Margaret passed through troubled times and is now at peace. God bless you, Margaret.

H. (Chalky) White. 1349

FURTHER TO OBITUARY NOTICE ALREADY GIVEN

I would like to draw attention to the obituary notice in respect of the late Patrick Joseph McGill, M.B.E., B.E.M., that appeared on page 48 of the last issue. Mainly to correct an inaccuracy. Paul is in fact Paddy's son, his mother being Joyce, Paddy's first wife. Also it should not be forgotten that when Paddy finished police work he became the principal secretary to the St. John Ambulance Brigade for West Africa, a position he held for many years.

Tony Keeling

Further to the obituary notice in respect of the late L. G. (George) Minnett that appeared on page 68 of issue number 152. I was a close friend of George in The Kenya Police Signals Branch and was able at very short notice to get three of us to his funeral. I am in touch with George's widow, Madeline, but I did not know until his death that George and Dick (later Sir Richard) Catling were constables together at Acre before the war.

David Patrick
(former Kenya Police Signals)

SHORT NOTICES OF DEATH

Thanks to the General Secretary's new computer we now discover that the following former P.P. passed away at different times in the past but whose details have not appeared in the Newsletter. They are: E. Grunsell at one time of 6 St. Matthews Road, Brixton, London SW2; the date of his death is not known; L. Lack, of whom there is no further information; an old comrade named Lee at one time of 18 Grosvenor Square, London W1; former British Inspector T. A. (Tom) Nicholls, who died in Cyprus circa 1964/65; former Deputy Superintendent H. W. Newton of Torness Cottage, Piddington, Oxfordshire of 1944 vintage and who died in 1964; E. Roberts former B/Sgt. 134 of 21 Alfred Street, Aberavon who died on 1st August 1975 and lastly The Rev. Scott-Morrison of Edinburgh. Although so very late in the day, it is sad to recall departed merit.

We are indebted to a Mr. Kemp, son of the late Harry (Gus) Kemp, for the information that his mother, Mrs. A. Bland of 14 Hammond Way, Sprowston, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 9HP died on 26th June, 1990. This lady was in receipt of the Newsletter which she read regularly. We all regret this passing, particularly those who served with her former husband, Harry, who joined the Force in 1938 by way of local recruitment in Egypt after regular service with The Royal Norfolk Regiment. We offer our condolences to Mr. Kemp Junior and thank him for keeping in touch.

Sad news has been received that former B/Const. 1279 Clifford E. Pegg died on 5th June, 1990, in Co. Durham following a stroke. He was September 1942 vintage in Palestine and is thought to have served much of his time at Central Police Station, Jerusalem. We offer sincere condolences to his wife and family and all his friends.

We are indebted to Luke Hannon for a cutting from the *Irish Times* of 1st June, 1990, which in turn announced the death of Mrs. Ruth Martin of Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Irish Republic. Ruth was the widow of the late J. M.

(Jack) Martin, lately of Irish Army, Palestine Police and Royal Hong Kong Police in that order and who died as recently as 22nd August, 1989. (Newsletter 157, December 1989 – *Ed.*) For the second time within a year we offer our sincere condolences to the children of this couple, Alexander, Inez, Rowena, Simon and Jocelyn.

We deeply regret to inform members that Mona, dear wife of George Elgar, died on 8th July, 1990, at the age of 77 and so ending a 46- year partnership of marriage. She will be remembered by many who knew her in Palestine and at her home in 63 Castelnau, Barnes, London SW13 9RT. There was a funeral service at St. Oswald's Church, Barnes, followed by interment at Richmond Cemetery. The Association was represented by Charles and Mary Wood and their son William and Micky Hills of Central Council. To George's daughter, Jane and relatives we offer our deep and sincere sympathy.

On 6th June, 1990 the death took place of Mrs. Anne Bowman after a succession of strokes. She was 76, the widow of the late Frank Bowman who died about a year ago in Bletchley, Milton Keynes. Sadly Anne was never able to come to terms with Frank's death. There was a cremation service on 18th June at which Micky Hills represented The Association. Our thoughts go out to her son, John and daughter-in-law, Jan and all relatives and friends in their sad loss.

With reference to a Tracer mentioned on page 63 of the last issue, we must thank Jock Taylor of 47 Lewin Street, Balclutha, Otago, New Zealand for confirmation that B. A. (Bernard) Hathaway was indeed a former Palestine Policeman. Bernard was in the same recruit squad as Jock at Jenin, arriving there 30th November, 1945. His number being somewhere between 4284 and 4290. It is confirmed he was killed in a road accident in Malaya in early 1952 in the State of Kedah. His formal notice of death is thus included here. Apparently Bernard had a brother who also joined the Force in 1946. There are no other details.

As we leave for the printers, we learn that the wife of Tom Freeburn a member of Central Council since 1973 and Treasurer of London Branch, lost his wife, who died on Saturday, 28th July, 1990. Further details are not to hand but we offer our condolences to Tom and all relatives and friends.

It is with regret we announce the death in hospital of Kenneth Eldridge of 43 Arran Road, Catford, London SE6 2LH, former Force cricketer and athlete. Further details will appear in the December Newsletter.

2nd NOTICE

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

SATURDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 1990

THE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL
CONFERENCE CENTRE

Victoria Street, SW1

(Entrance down slope to right of Cathedral)

6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.

Minimum charge £12.50

(Tickets for the dinner only from General Secretary
BEFORE 29th September)

and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at

"The Cardinal", Francis Street, SW1

3.15 p.m. in the afternoon

(nearest underground: Victoria)

ANNUAL CENOTAPH PARADE

(TO BE FILMED BY THE B.B.C.)

SUNDAY, 7th OCTOBER, 1990

SPECIAL EFFORT PLEASE!

Horse Guards Avenue, 10.00 a.m.

(nearest underground: Westminster, Embankment or
Trafalgar Square)

Fall in 10.30 a.m. March: 10.55 a.m.

Service: 11.00 a.m.

Followed by a gathering at the Cardinal (Headquarters)

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS UNIQUE AND MOVING OCCASION

NON-MARCHERS Assemble King Charles St. at 10.30 a.m.

GREETINGS SECTION

BANNISTER, Frank and Rita – "Sandown", 8 Whitbygate, Thornton-le-Dale,
Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7RY. Send kind regards to everyone by way
of the Secretary, Yorkshire Branch.

ERRATUM

In the Greetings Section of Issue No. 157 (December 1989) Page 57 shows
the name PENNINGTON, D. W. (Bill) etc. Several readers have pointed out to
us the dreadful error in that the name should have been PENWRIGHT, Bill. But
the greetings that follow is the real thing. Regret any inconvenience to all
concerned.

CONGRATULATIONS

Bill and Maisie Ridgard of 36 Church Road, Burton Joyce, Nottinghamshire
NG14 5GGI are to celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 16th
September, 1990. Many congratulations to them both with lots of love and
affection sent from their three lads, the girls and the grandchildren. Well done
Mum and Dad. By way of a rider, we feel it is "Well Done" from the rest of us too.

Our President, Brigadier J. M. Rymer-Jones, C.B.E., M.C., C.St.J.,
Q.P.M., celebrated his 93rd birthday quite recently. On 12th July to be exact.
Almost to a man, we stand to congratulate The Father of our Association who not
only led us through thick and thin in Palestine but has guided us through the years
on Central Council as former Chairman 1950 to 1963 – Chairman Emeritus 1963
to 1969 and since then our President, following the death of Sir Harold
MacMichael. Long may the village of High Halden in Kent have this gallant
English (with we believe Welsh connections) gentleman sojourned in their midst.
What is more important, long may he continue to be our President and
congratulations and many happy returns for his birthday.

N. G. (Gordon) Davidson and his dear wife, Aileen, of 83 Eatwell Avenue,
Paraparaumu Beach, Nr. Wellington, New Zealand celebrated their 40th, or
Ruby, Wedding Anniversary last October and at this late moment we heartily
congratulate the couple. There was a large family gathering including six of their
nine grandchildren, one son and one daughter and their respective spouses.
Owing to distance another son was unable to be present. They have chosen an
idyllic spot to live by all accounts. May they enjoy it all for many years to come.

LONDON AGM—DINNER—PARADE ACCOMMODATION To Fit YOUR Pocket

Following discussion with the General Manager of the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London. Our association members will be very welcome to stay in their completely new club premises at Waterloo, near both the Cathedral Conference Centre and the Cenotaph.

Our members will be treated as temporary honorary members. Both twin beds and single rooms are available for members and families.

BOOK EARLY — Mentioning Palestine Police O.C.A.

- ★ Excellent public transport services; handy for Central London.
- ★ Limited car parking facilities (not bookable in advance and at owner's risk).

BOOKINGS

Applications for accommodation should be made to The Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ (opposite Waterloo Station). (Telephone: 071-928 6401.)

Cheques can only be accepted when supported by a cheque card. (Not required for cheques sent by post.)

All meals are paid for as taken.

A deposit of one night's accommodation charge for each room is required at time of booking. This is returnable if booking is cancelled at least 48 hours in advance of date of arrival, less a small administrative charge. Telephone bookings must be confirmed in writing with the deposit. Please forward a stamped addressed envelope when requesting a reply.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

June this year found 20 members of the Association visiting Jordan and Israel and high on the priority of visits were those to the cemeteries at Ramleh, Haifa and Jerusalem, where at each place a short service was held and a wreath was laid. At Ramleh, Mrs. Elsie Webb laid a wreath on behalf of all the ladies in the Association. The condition of the cemeteries is now first class and we have been promised by the senior representative in the Middle East of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and also Mr. Ivan Callan, the British Consul General in Jerusalem that they would assure the continued maintenance of our graves.

Now on the first Sunday of October 1990 all our members have the opportunity of honouring all those comrades we left in The Holy Land. Please make every effort to be On Parade in Whitehall. Age will of necessity curtail the enjoyment of too many more parades in the future but this year, at least, let's book up for the dinner if you can and the parade on the following day. That is 6th and 7th October.

*Terry Shand
Chairman*

SICK PARADE

DeVAL, E. E. (Ernie) – 20 Grosvenor Court, Gosport Road, Stubbington, Hampshire entered hospital in Portsmouth after suffering a stroke in early June. At that time he could be found in B4 Ward, St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth. This well known old comrade and active member of Southern & Western Counties Branch committee will, we all hope, recover from this setback in the shortest possible time. We also hope he will take things quietly.

GREENSTREET, C. W. J. (Charles) – Ravenscroft, Staplehay, Trull, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7EZ. We are grateful to Ken Harrison for information that our old friend Charles Greenstreet is again back in hospital. Letter dated 7th July with mention of an operation on Monday, which sounds like 9th. His spirits are high we are told and may we soon hear that Charles has overcome this adversity and is back home and recovering.

PROUD, I. S. (Ian) – 33 Chipstead Park, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2SL has had a bad few months to the point of being very ill. After hospitalisation in Dulwich he telephoned to say he is now home (early July) but relies upon continued dialysis treatment each day. This is all pretty grim stuff and we all pray and hope that this former Superintendent in Palestine and Inspecting Officer at our Annual Parade in London enjoys a greatly improved quality of life in the near future.

DEACON, Jim – 42 Fulmerston Road, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3LN spent a long time last year flat on his back. This was due to the reoccurrence of an old spinal injury. Unfortunately Jim is now classified as an invalid and is confined to barracks to a great extent, except for an occasional brief excursion. J. H. A. Deacon Esquire was 1746 in Palestine and all old comrades will wish him at least an improved life style from what sounds a frustrating situation.

ISHERWOOD, Eric – 18 Church Street, Ricall, York, North Yorkshire YO4 6PN is in hospital, we regret to learn by way of The Yorkshire Branch News. On 13 July 1990 he had a hip replacement and we trust he is now much more active and without pain with his new “part”.

STANNERS, Audrey, Mrs. – 120B Elmore Street, Islington, London N1 3AH. We have heard from Tom Isted, that Audrey is still in The Whittington Hospital, Highgate, London but is happily making slow progress. We are sure she is in good care and all her many friends hope to see her much improved in whatever amount of time is required to bring this about.

CASTLE, Bill – Flat 1, Ridge High, 84 Ridge Road, Berea, Durban 4001, R.S.A. From what we hear, Bill is not as young and as fit as he was in Palestine. We daresay that Anno Domini is responsible as usual. Just the same, all his many friends and former comrades wish Bill the best value that any fine vintage wine can offer.

LEE, Peter – 74 Athlone Towers, Lower Bridge Road, Durban North, Natal 4051 R.S.A. Peter recently underwent an operation and all old comrades wish him a recovery equal to his redoubtable nature. All best wishes meanwhile from all of us.

GRAY, Mrs. Ann – 2 Balmanno Park, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire suffered a nasty accident while abroad, we regret to hear but was happily in attendance at The Scottish Branch luncheon in June “hirpling” with a stick, we are told. May this soon be improved to orthodox ambulatory movement in the shortest possible time.

BARRON, W. G. (Bill) – 34 Carnegie Place, Perth has suffered two successful hip operations we understand. That is the good news. But a knee operation has not been so successful and another repeat op. is now due. All old comrades hope this will do the job and pain and inconvenience become a thing of the past.

HARRADINE, Fred – 2/3 Gladstone Place, Buckland, Portsmouth, Hampshire. We have to report from our travelling “Benefactor”, S. W. (Micky) Hills, who has described his own address as “Soho Bidun Stink”, that Fred Harradine is on the mend from his recent heart problems. This is of course marvellous news and it is nice to think he will be back on parade shortly.

McGLEW, Jack – Boyerstown House, Navan, Co. Meath, Irish Republic had a hip operation in mid June and appeared from his letter to have a high level of confidence that all would be well. Although we have not heard the result, we trust that all was in fact well and his problem is greatly improved.

PERNETTA, Umberto – Ettalerstratta 9, D.8103 Oberammergau, Bavaria, W. Germany. Letters from several old comrades inform us that Umberto is a bit under the weather. The “Hakim” has pulled him out from his part in The Passion Play activities but hopefully he will be back in form very shortly.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

BELL, Sir Gawain, 6 Hildesley Court, East Ilsley, Berkshire RG16 0LA (from Hidcote Batrim Manor, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire).

BROMLEY, Mrs. E., 1201/8888 Riverside Drive, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N8S 1H2 (from).

HOOK, I., Cleeve Lodge, Elmhurst Road, Goring on Thames, Reading, Berkshire RG8 9BN (from Huntley Home, Bishopsteignton, Teignmouth, Devon).

LUCAS, Mrs. B., 41B Woodlands Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 2BU (from Oakenholt, Flint, North Wales). (Not yet handled by General Secretary – Ed.)

SPARKS, D. J., “Caledow”, Bishopswood, Nr. Chard, Somerset TA20 3RS (from “Lake Cottage”, Bishopswood).

NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 5177 | Not yet to hand. |
| 5178 | Not yet to hand. |
| 5179 | GIBBONS, J., ex-B/Const. 314 – 51 Staplehall Road, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK1 1BQ. |
| 5180 | BAIRSTOW, J., ex-B/Const. 2006 – 19 Brooklands Avenue, Holywell Green, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX4 9AA. |

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------|--|
| A.165 | PRIESTLEY, P. A., (son of 631 R. L. Priestley) – 168 Stanley Road, Toowong, Brisbane, Queensland 4066, Australia. |
| A.166 | PRIESTLEY, A. R. (son of 631 R. L. Priestley) – 17 Mathew Street, Scarborough, Brisbane, Queensland, 4020 Australia. |

NEW DONOR MEMBER

- | | |
|-------|--|
| D.206 | TAYLOR, E., 77 Elizabeth Road, Huyton, Merseyside L36 0TQ. |
|-------|--|

ERRATUM – NEW MEMBER

Correction from last issue:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 5175 | BOURNE, J., ex-B/Const. 4180 – Ivy Cottage Farm, Elkstone, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 9PD. (Corrected initial.) |
|------|---|

PALESTINE POLICE - O.C.A.

BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Objects: To relieve need, hardship and distress amongst members of the association, their widows and other dependents.

Chairman: S. W. (Mickie) Hills, K.P.M., B.E.M.

Flat 57, Kemp House, 103 Berwick Street, London W1V 3PN

Telephone: 071-437 4483

Secretary: S. P. Johnson

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TRACERS

The undermentioned have fallen off the General Secretary's map. Any information of present whereabouts will oblige:

BUTLER, B. S. A. (ex-B/Const. 1049). Last known address: Animal Centre, Braybrooke Cross Roads, Desborough Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

GRIMOLDBY, J. S. (ex-B/Sgt. 507). Formerly at: 123 Cornwall Avenue, Blackpool, Lancashire FY2 2QS.

D. A. F. (Derek) Sayer of 2 Staplers Court, Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2XB seeks the whereabouts of his old pal W. J. (Jeep) Hillier of Palestine days. Derek was former B/Sergeant 1785 (See Home Notes - *Ed.*) and "Jeep" Hillier is believed to have been former B/Sergeant 1979 and last thought to have been living in the Reading area of Berkshire after becoming a lapsed member of this association in 1954. Perhaps some kind old comrade with detective capabilities (not defective capabilities as someone in the Metropolitan Force once wrote in an examination paper), could assist Derek in bringing these two together. We hope so.

As long ago as December 1987 (Page 81 of No. 149) we sought the whereabouts of former J. D. (Dacker) Parker. At one time B/Const. 2115 of 31st December 1938 vintage. This enquiry came through A. F. (Terry) Burke of 7 La Vallette Court, Ras il Qawra, Malta and was on behalf of Mrs. Jessie Preston, née Parker, who is trying to discover whether her brother is yet alive or has died. At the time of the original enquiry it had been 61 years since the two had met. It seems worth making this second insertion because it is believed that this old comrade married a Maltese lady and settled in the Whitworth, near Rochdale, area of Lancashire. Once again are there any detectives in that area anxious to test their skill? If successful please write to Mrs. Preston, direct. She lives at 5 St. John's Flats, Queens Road, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 2HW.

THE SOUKH

Every Member of the P.P.O.C.A. is expected to have in his possession, for wear on appropriate occasions, some distinctive article or articles of utility or sartorial adornment which will identify him as having served with the finest body of men the Colonial Service has ever known – the Palestine Police.

The following articles, AVAILABLE ONLY TO PAID-UP MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, may be obtained at the prices stated. As we have no staff to deal with credit sales or C.O.D., please send remittance with order. Members are requested to include in the remittance sufficient to cover postage, by surface mail or air-mail, whichever mode of despatch they prefer. Please check latest newsletter for prices.

THIS LIST CANCELS ALL LISTS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

		U.K. post/ packing
Ties, all silk 3¼" × 54"	£8.00	30p
Ties, polyester	£3.50	30p
Cravats, mens	£6.50	35p
Blazer Badges, silver-wire	£6.50	35p
Wall Plaques, hand-painted	£12.00	90p
Car Badges (radiator fitting)	£11.00	90p
Lapel Badges, silver and enamel	£1.50	30p
Car Key-Rings with O.C.A. crest (leather holder)	£1.75	35p
Blazer Buttons, large	£1.10	20p
Blazer Buttons, small	£1.10	20p
Windscreen Stickers, O.C.A. crest	30p	20p
Wool Scarves, association colours	£11.00	90p
Tea spoons, chrome	£4.25	35p
Cuff links (like cap badge)	£6.25	35p
Tie clips (like cap badge)	£3.15	35p
Lapel badges (like cap badge)	£2.15	30p
Ladies' silk square	£16.00	35p
Cassette, The Holy City and Edited address of The President (taken from A.R.D. 1984)	£2.50	40p
Christmas Cards with P.P. motif	£1.10 for 5	30p
Navy blue sweaters with white P.P. motif (badge) (sizes 34, 38) lamb's wool	cost £15.00	£1.30
Navy blue sweaters with white P.P. only motif (sizes 40, 42, 44, 46) acrylic	£13.50	£1.30
White sweaters with blue P.P. only motif (sizes 38, 40, 42, 44) acrylic Ideal for the ladies	£13.50	£1.30
White pilot shirts Short sleeves – blue P.P. motif (sizes M, L, XL)	£11.00	75p
6 oz. hip flasks White P.P. motif	£13.00	90p
4 oz. hip flasks White P.P. motif	£12.00	75p

N.B. – Orders for remittances for the above articles should be sent to the Soukh Master who is Len Sexton, Flat 42, Barbara Brosnan Court, 46 Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London NW8 9NP. Telephone: 071-289 0041. Cheques and postal orders to be made out to the P.P.O.C.A.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1990 September 22nd/23rd	South Eastern Counties Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE and Long Weekend	Coniston Hotel Sittingbourne
October 6th	ASSOCIATION A.G.M. 3.15 p.m.	The Cardinal Westminster SW1
October 6th	ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 6.30 p.m.	Conference Centre Westminster SW1
October 7th	CENOTAPH PARADE and SERVICE 10.30 a.m.	Whitehall London SW1
October 27th	South Midlands Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	Blunsdon House Hotel Blunsdon, Nr. Swindon
December 8th	Southern and Western Counties Branch ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE	Courtlands Hotel Bournemouth
1991 March 16th	Midlands Branch DINNER/DANCE	Moat House Hotel Kenilworth
March 30th	East Midlands Branch DINNER/DANCE	The Swallow Hotel Normanton
May 25th	Merseyside and District Branch DINNER/DANCE	The Crest Hotel Liverpool

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